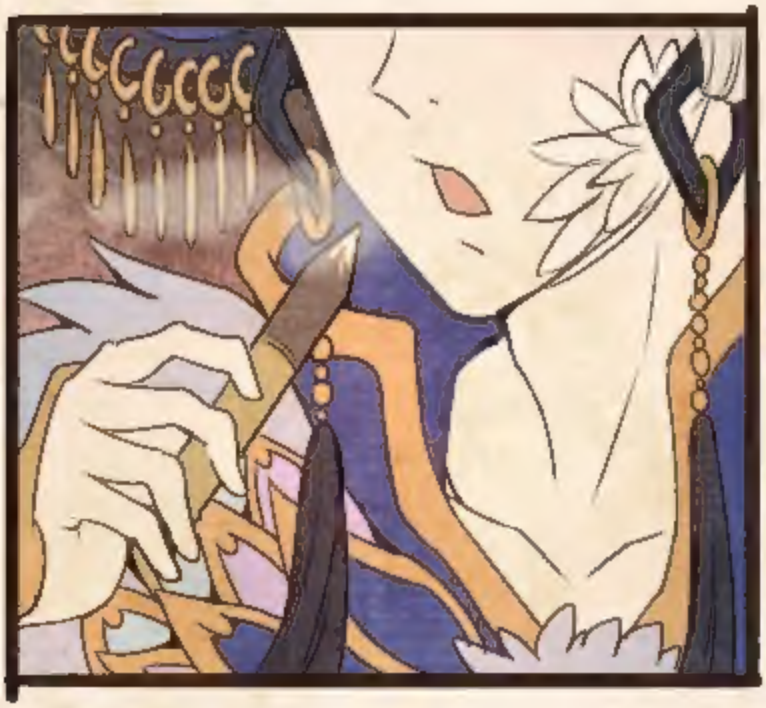
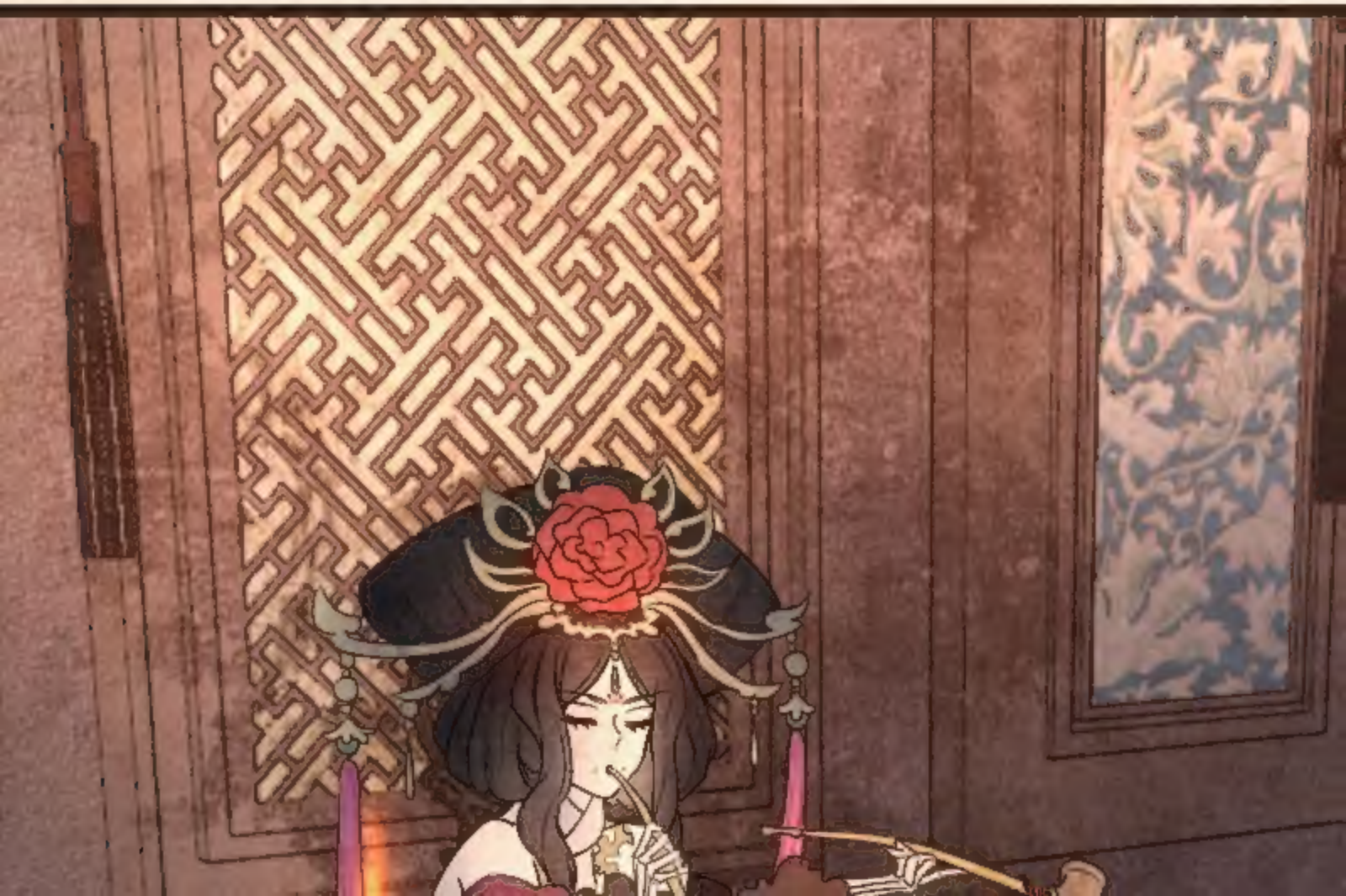
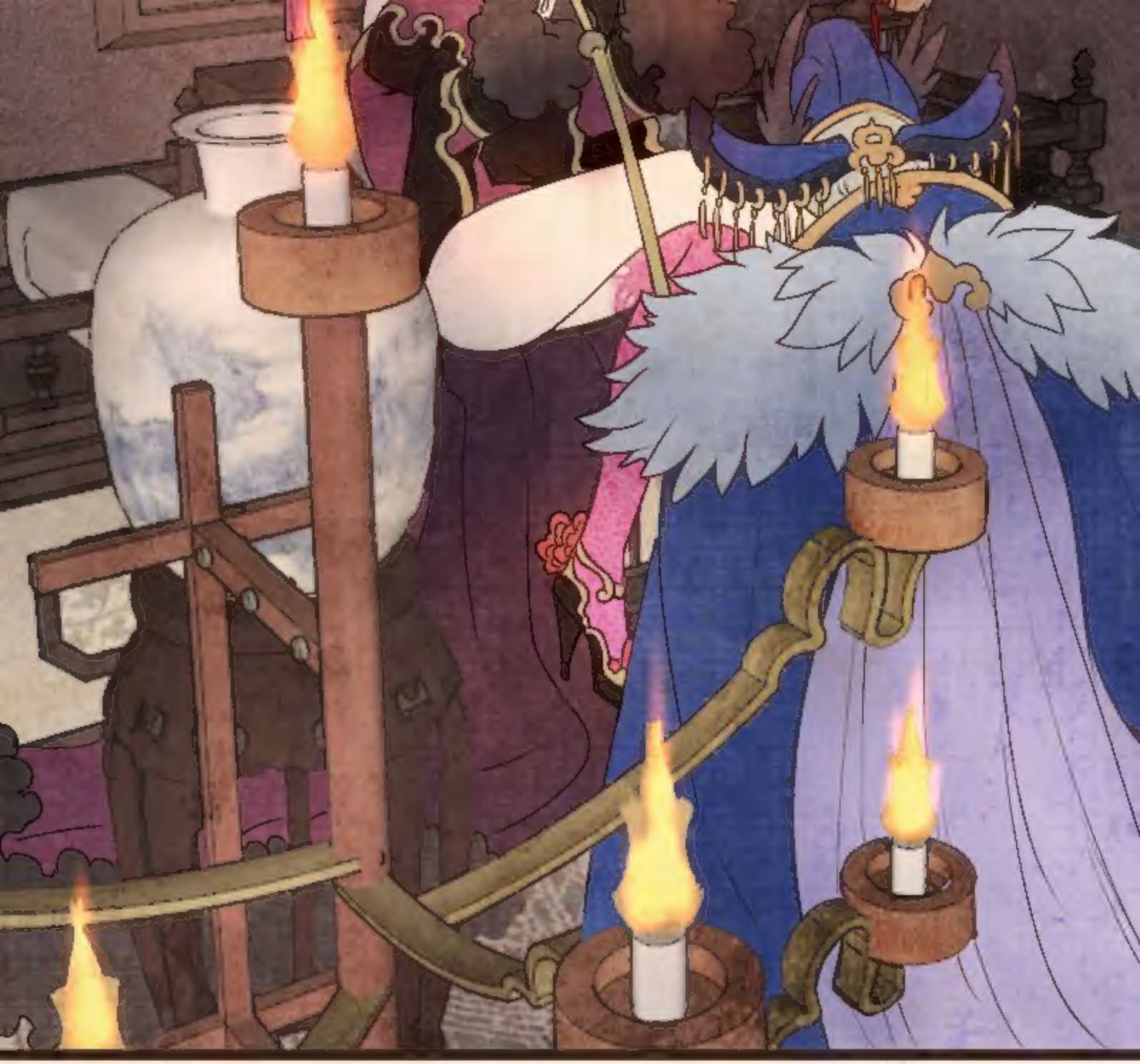
HUFF
HUFF

HUFF
HUFF



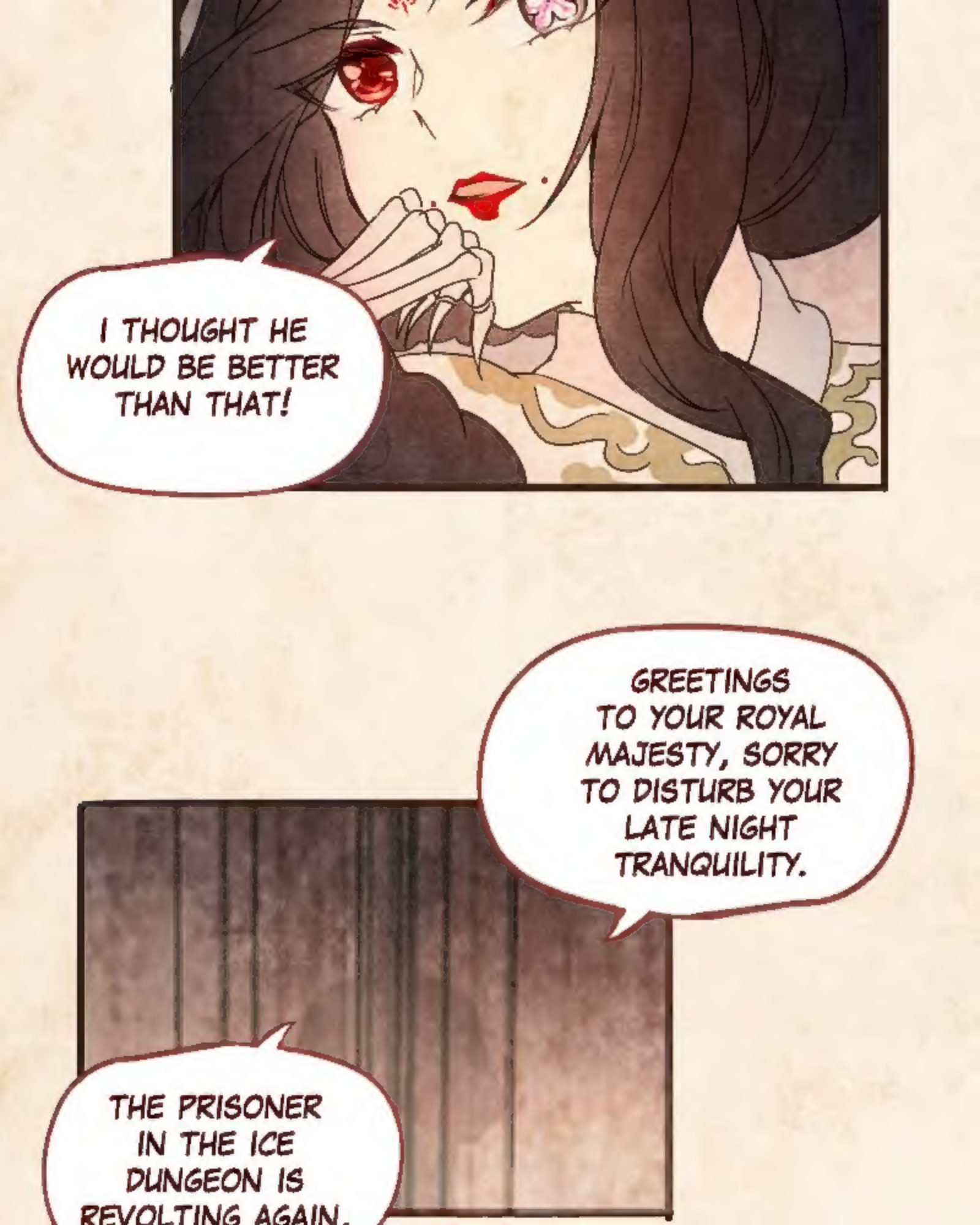


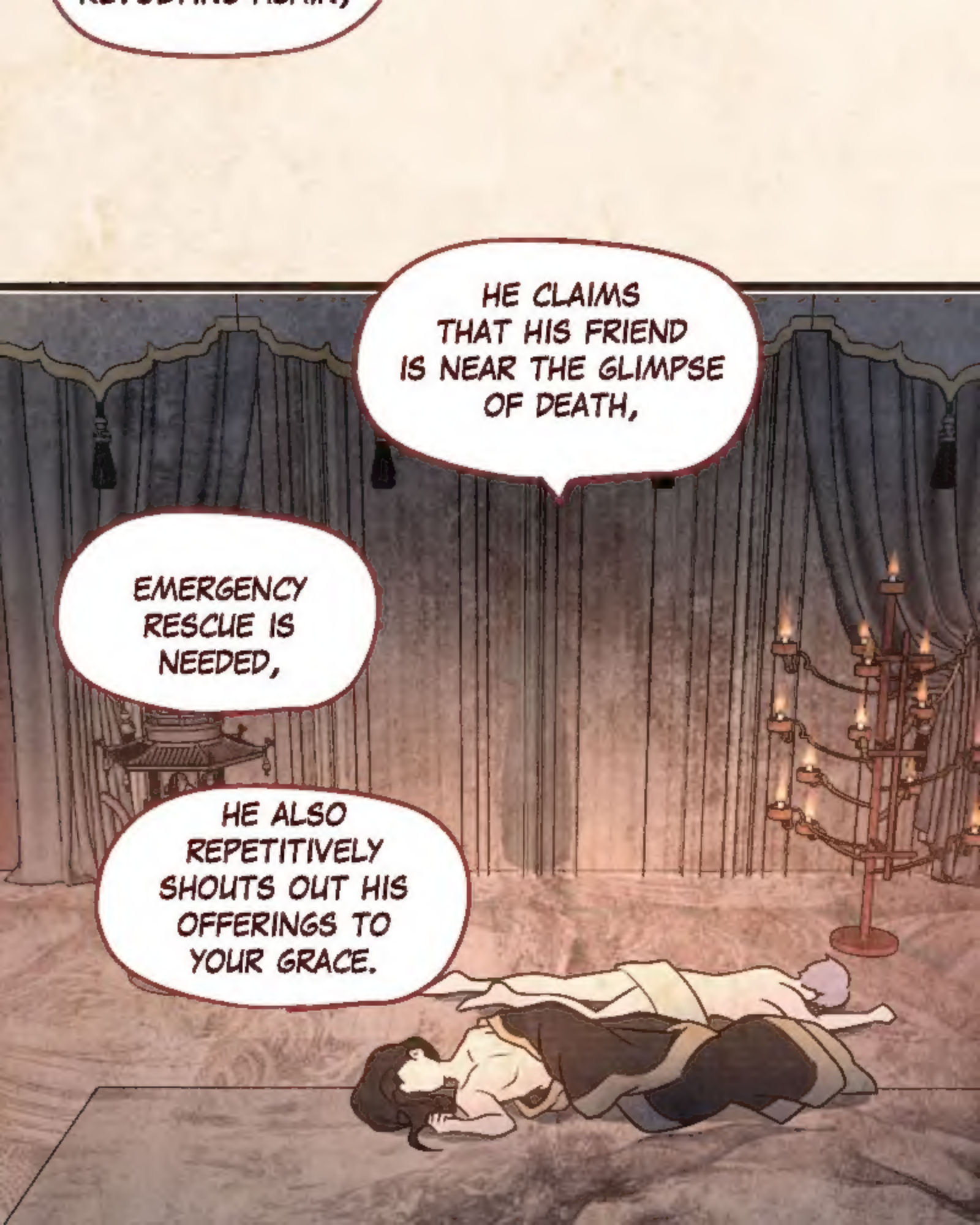


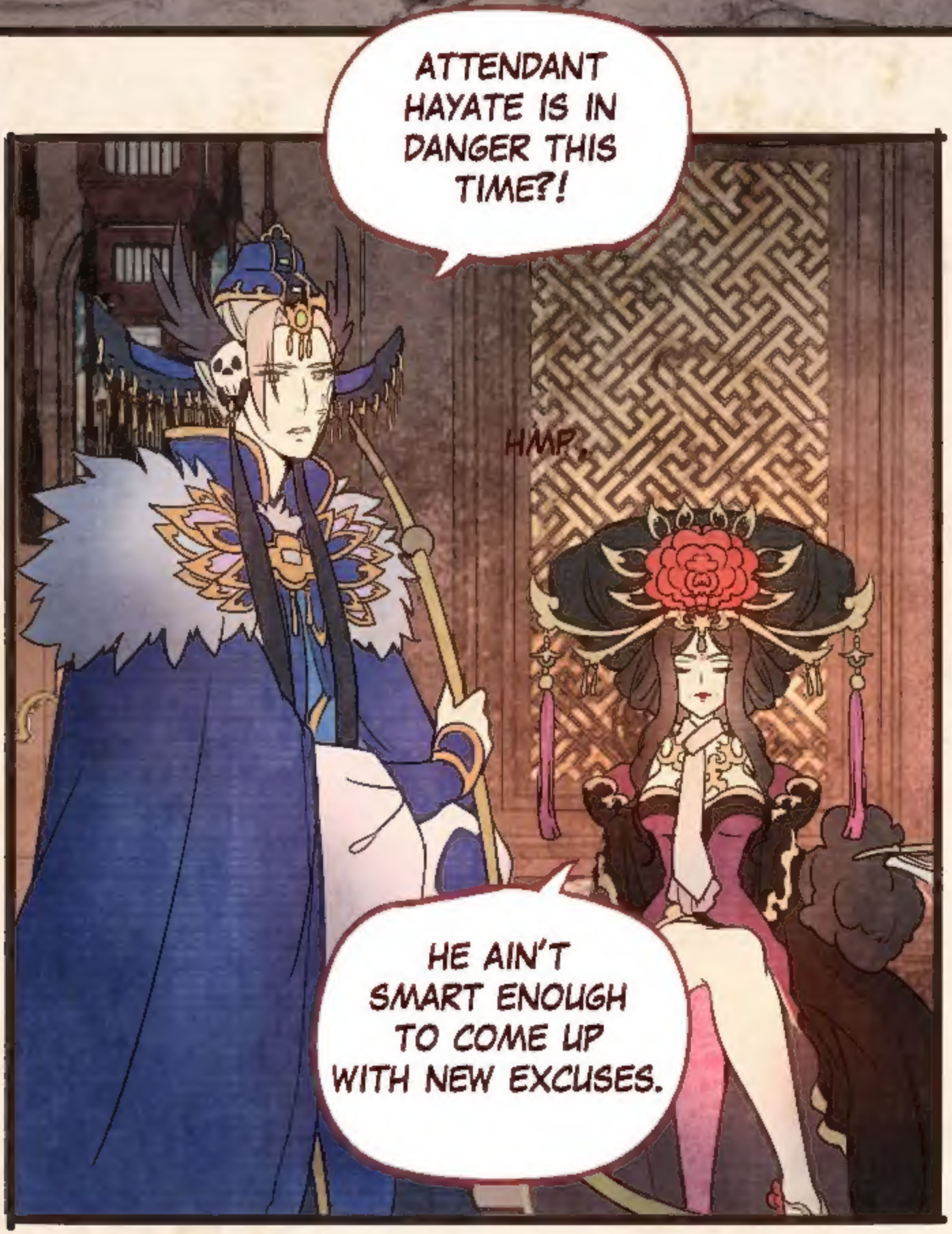
PLEASE TAKE A BREAK, YOUR MAJESTY. NOTHING IS HEALTHY WHEN YOU TAKE TOO MUCH IN AT ONCE.

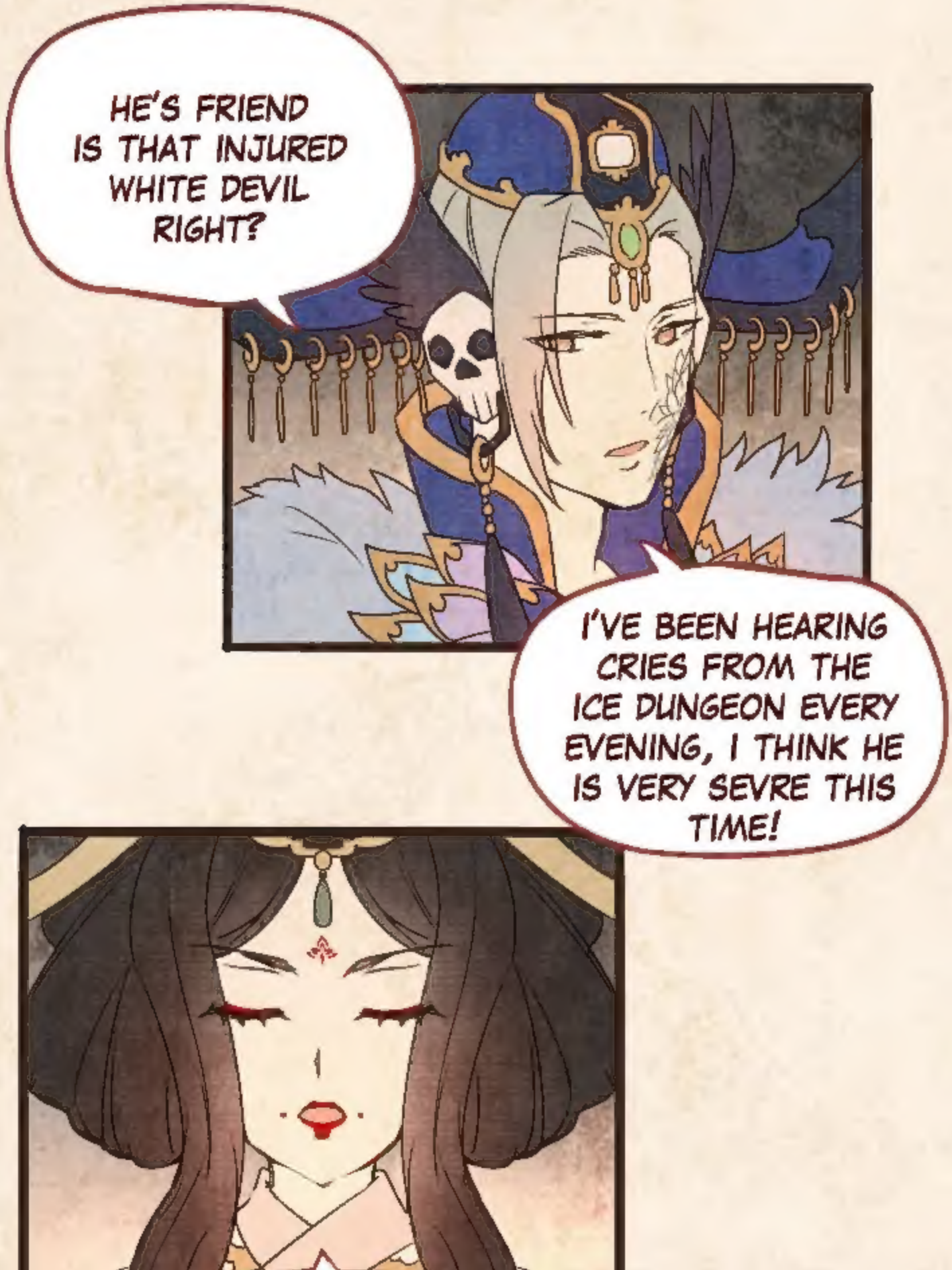
YOU'VE BEEN EXTRACTING MANA FROM FOURTEEN CONCUBINES IN A ROW.

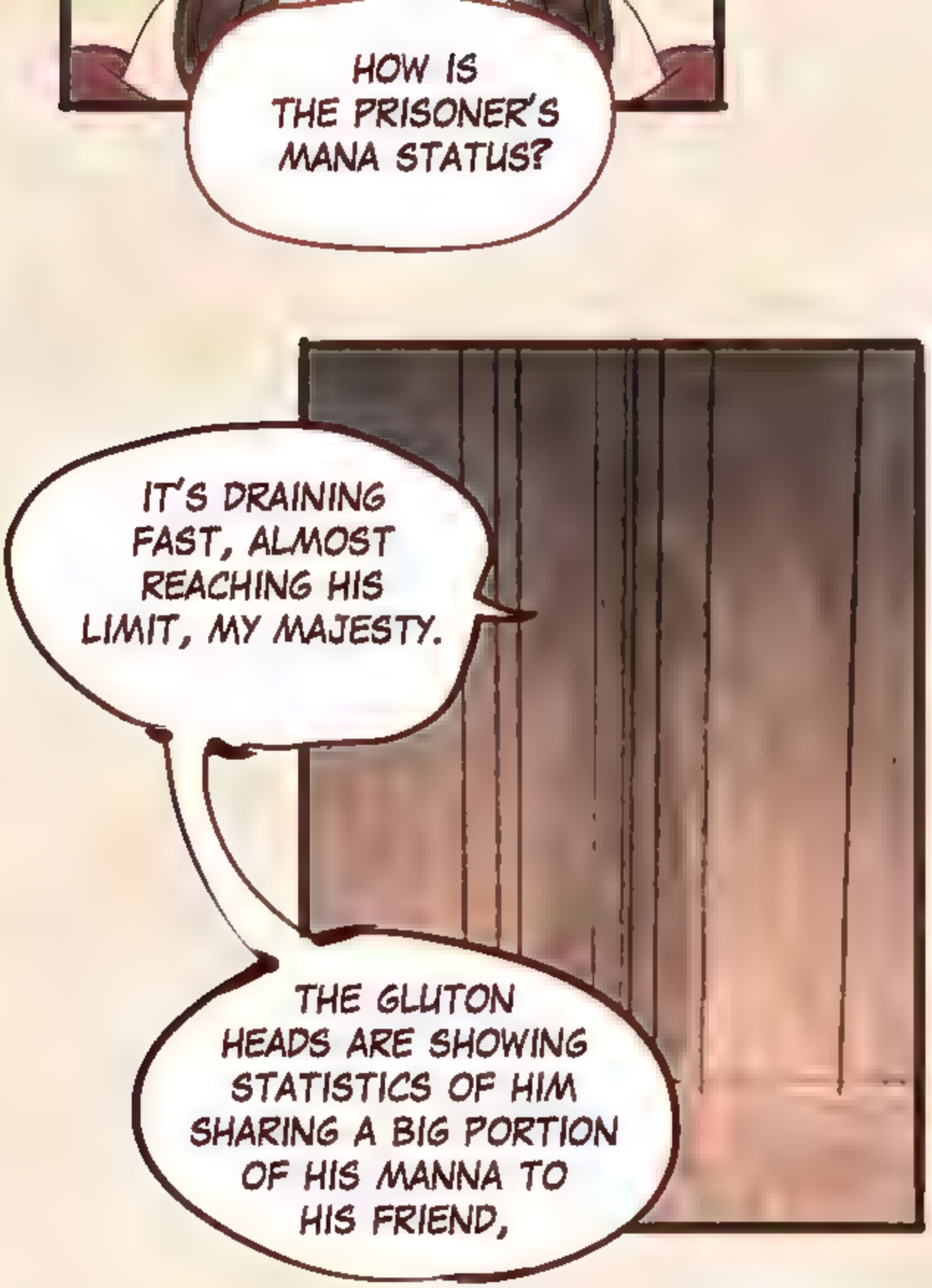
IT NEEDED TO BE DONE TO COOL DOWN MY FIRE.
LATELY THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH I NEED TO TAKE IN.
THAT UNGRATEFUL BRAT...


I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE BETTER THAN THAT!
GREETINGS TO YOUR ROYAL MAJESTY, SORRY TO DISTURB YOUR LATE NIGHT TRANQUILITY.
THE PRISONER IN THE ICE DUNGEON IS REVOLTING AGAIN.

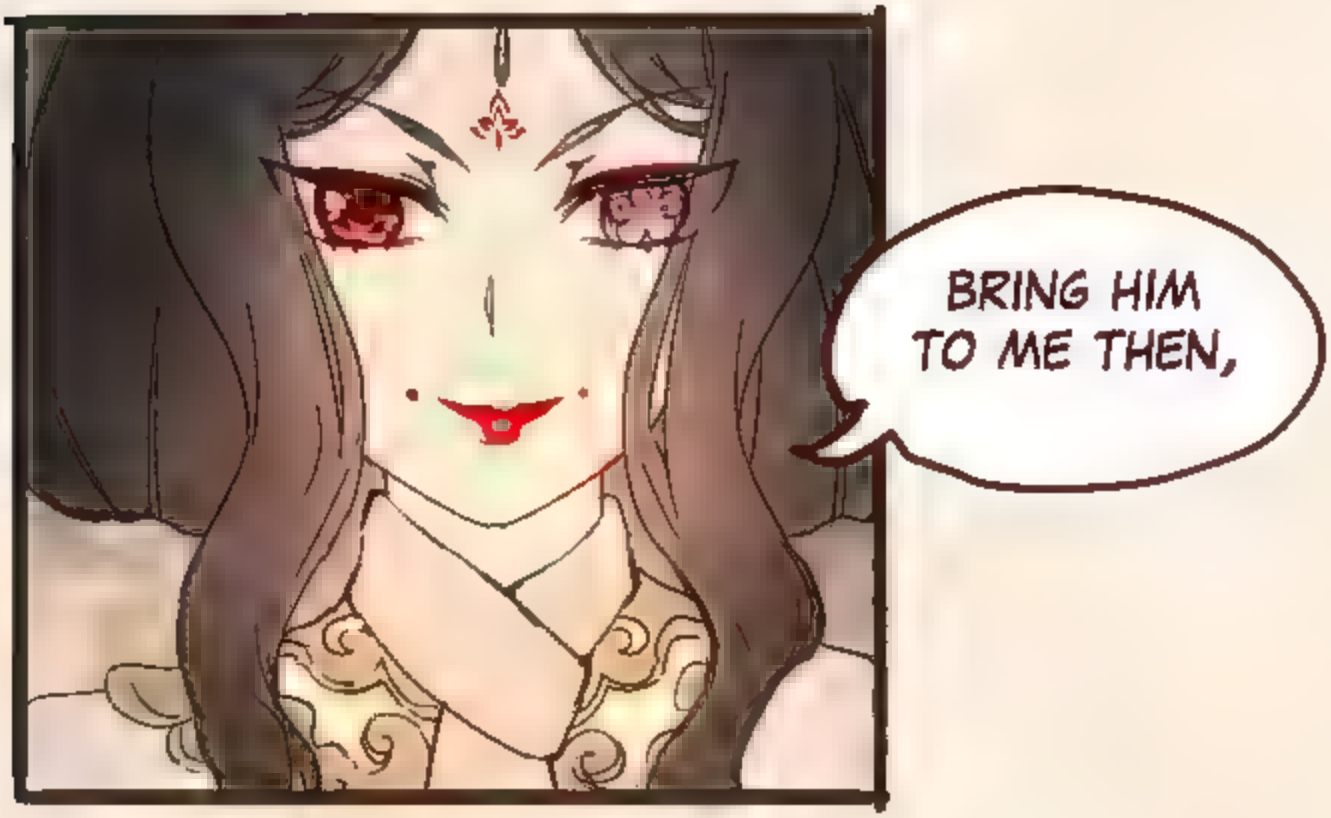

HE CLAIMS THAT HIS FRIEND IS NEAR THE GLIMPSE OF DEATH,
EMERGENCY RESCUE IS NEEDED,
HE ALSO REPETITIVELY SHOUTS OUT HIS OFFERINGS TO YOUR GRACE.


ATTENDANT HAYATE IS IN DANGER THIS TIME?!
HMP.
HE AIN'T SMART ENOUGH TO COME UP WITH NEW EXCUSES.


HE'S FRIEND IS THAT INJURED WHITE DEVIL RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN HEARING CRIES FROM THE ICE DUNGEON EVERY EVENING, I THINK HE IS VERY SEVRE THIS TIME!

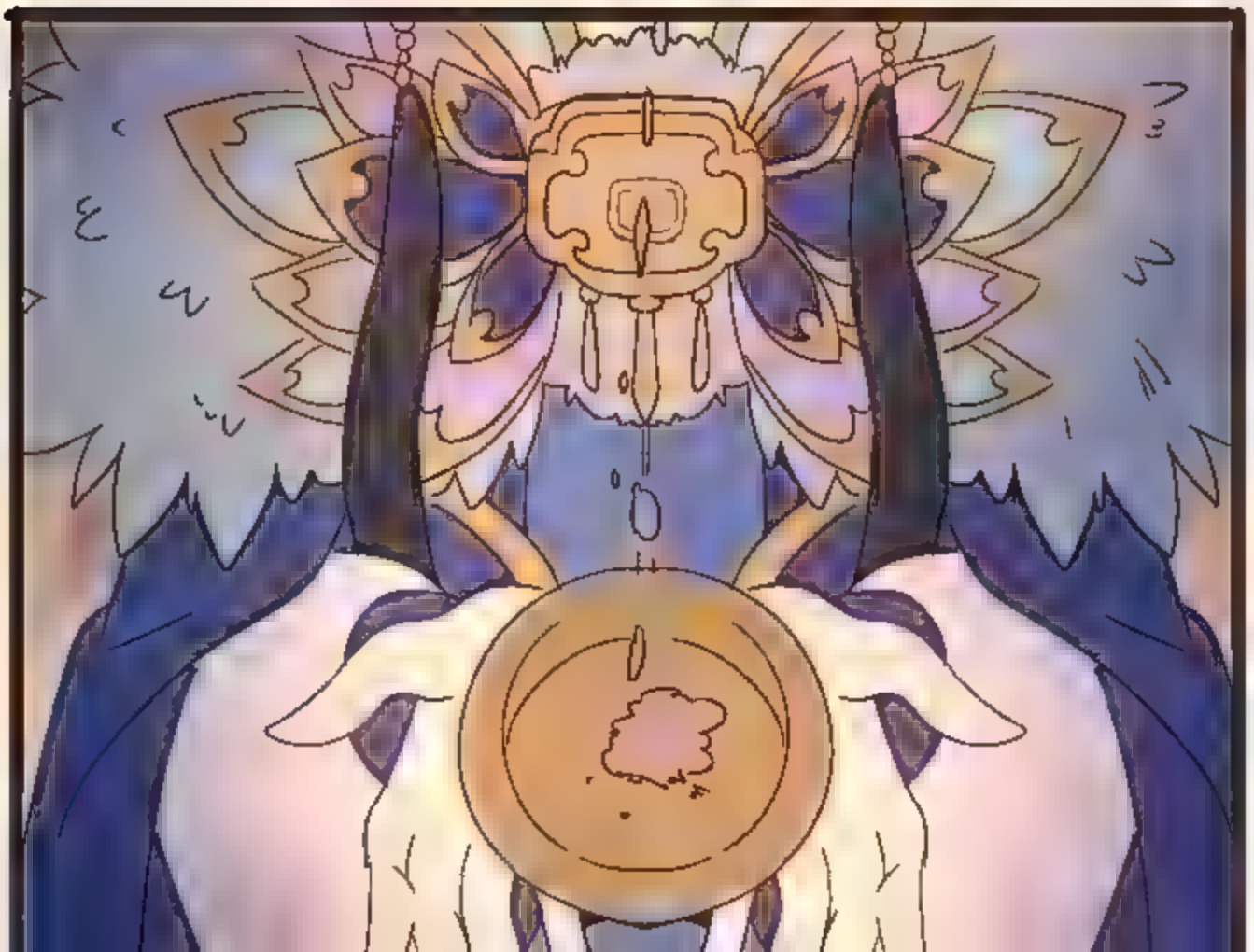

HOW IS THE PRISONER'S MANA STATUS?
IT'S DRAINING FAST, ALMOST REACHING HIS LIMIT, MY MAJESTY.
THE GLUTON HEADS ARE SHOWING STATISTICS OF HIM SHARING A BIG PORTION OF HIS MANNA TO HIS FRIEND,

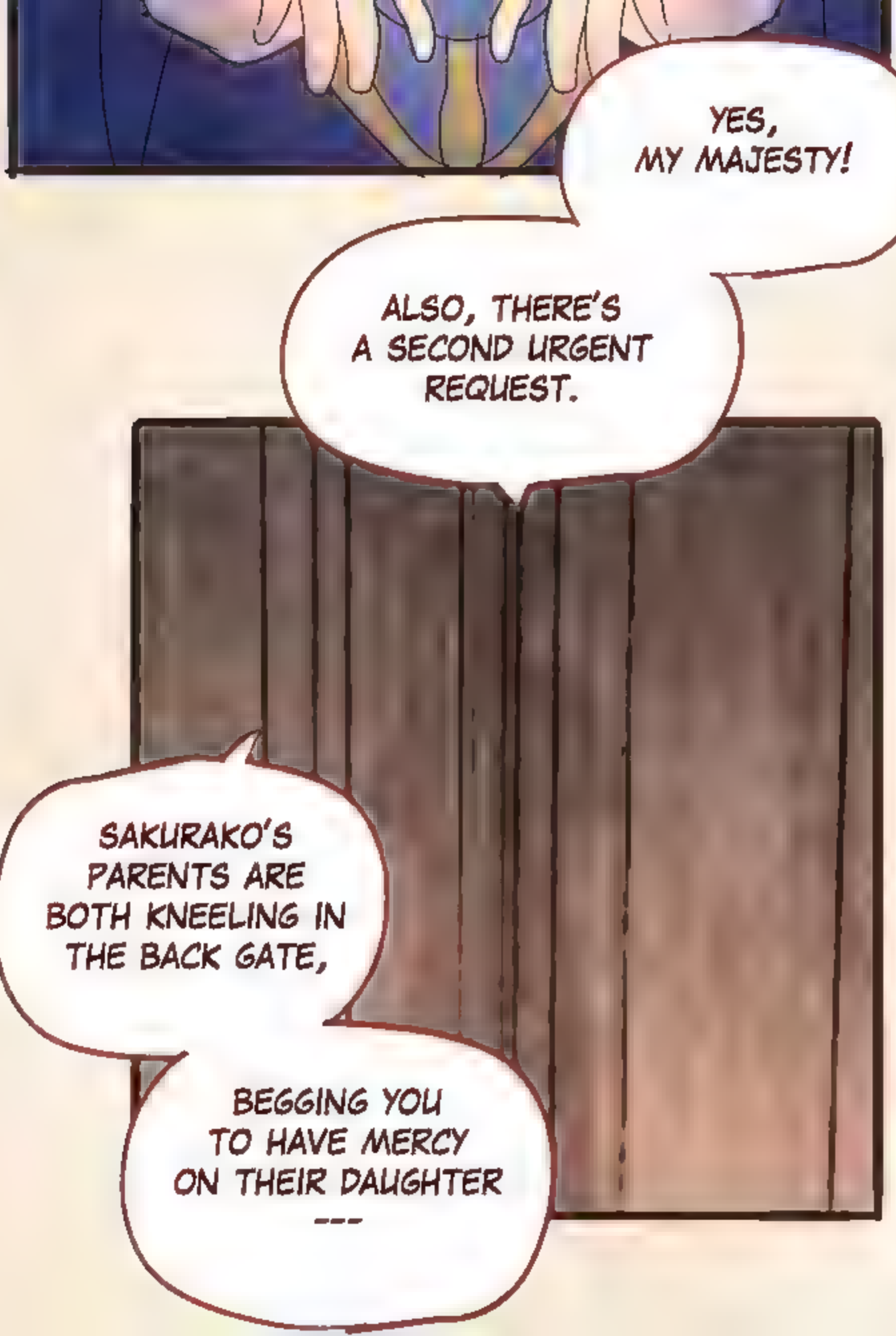
IF HE CONTINUES TO STAY AT THIS STATE, I'M AFRAID HE IS GOING TO BURN OUT AT ANY SECOND.

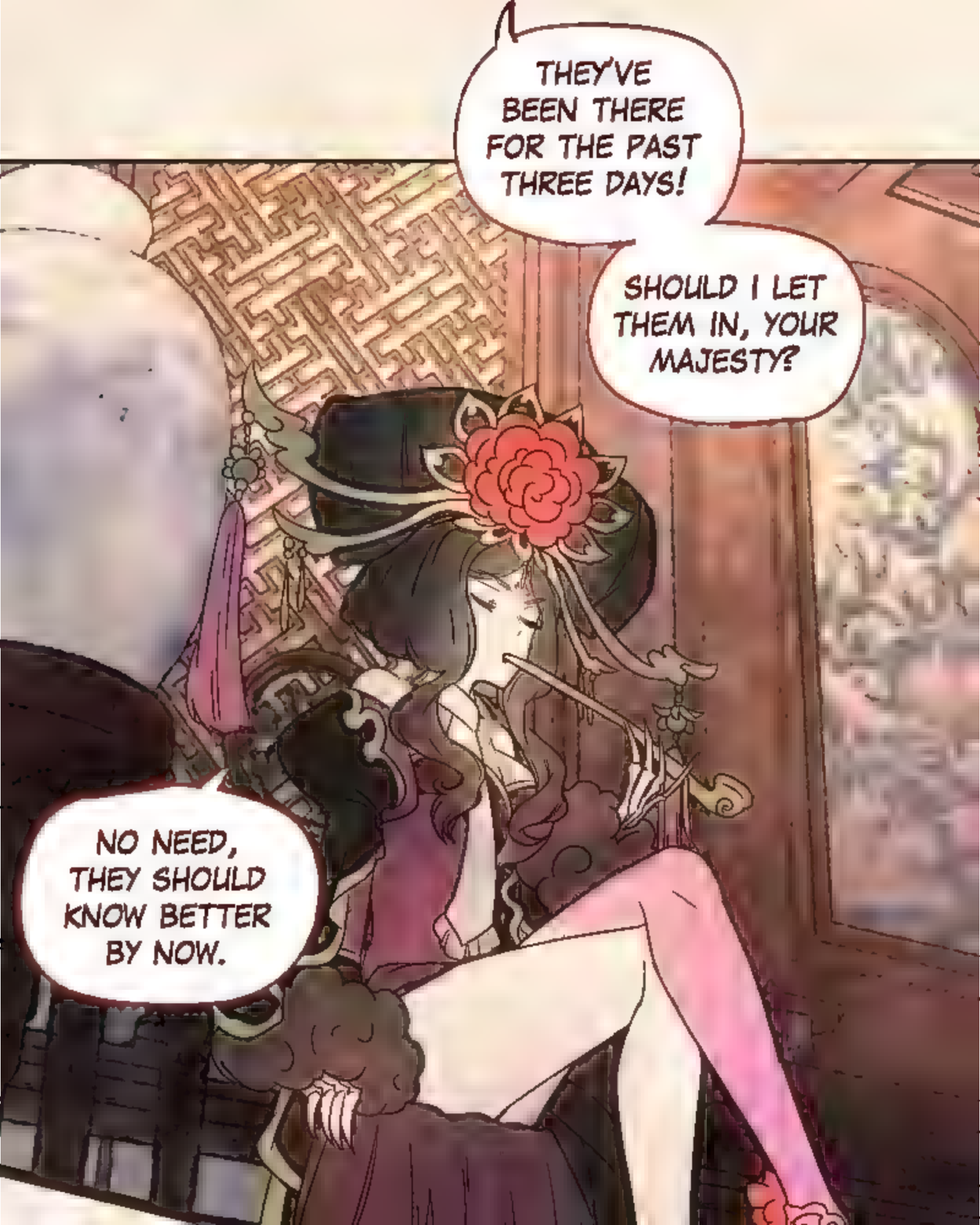


THIS IS THE PERFECT STATE

FOR NEGOTIATION.




YES,
MY MAJESTY!
ALSO, THERE'S
A SECOND URGENT
REQUEST.
SAKURAKO'S
PARENTS ARE
BOTH KNEELING IN
THE BACK GATE,
BEGGING YOU
TO HAVE MERCY
ON THEIR DAUGHTER

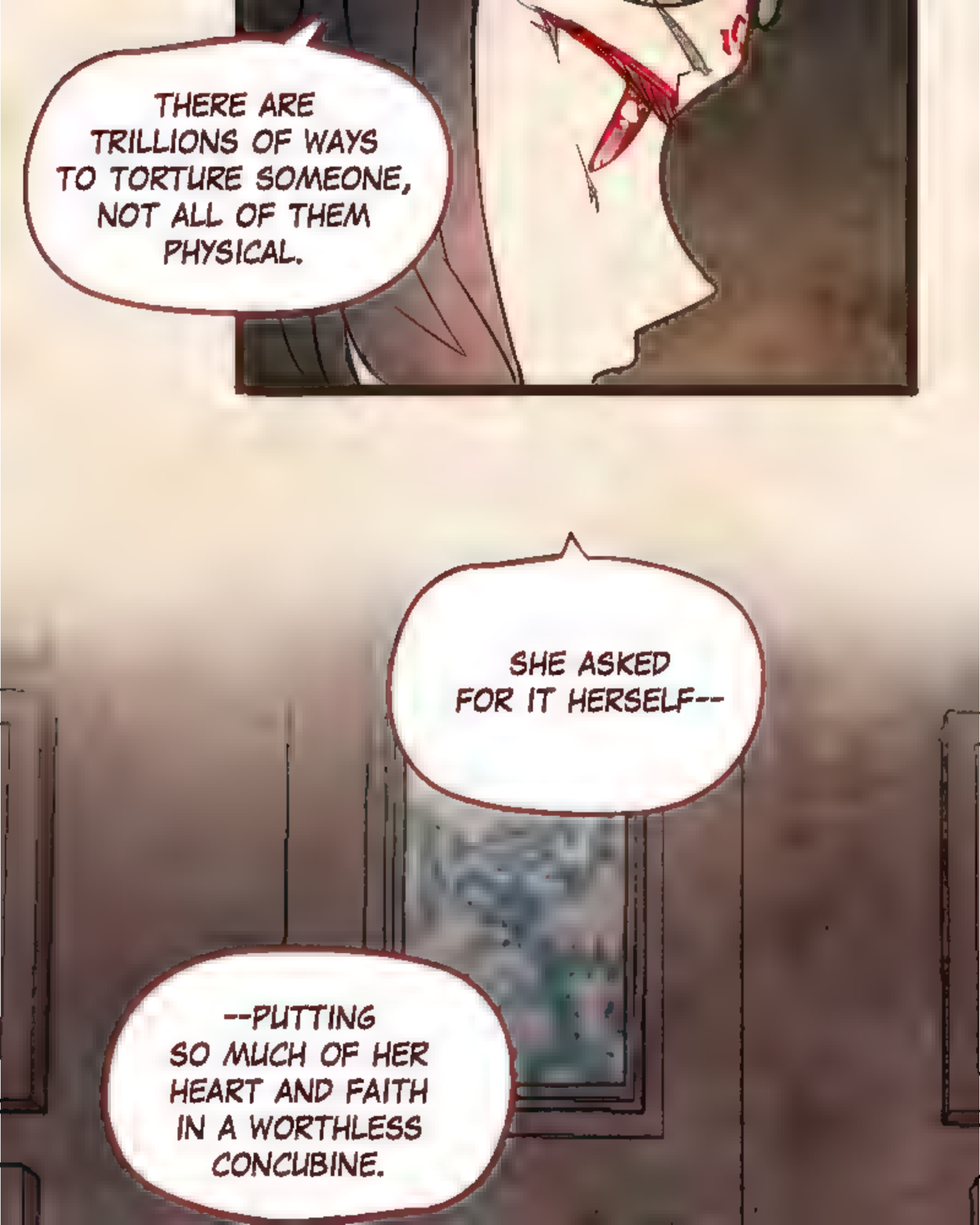

THEY'VE BEEN THERE FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS!
SHOULD I LET THEM IN, YOUR MAJESTY?
NO NEED, THEY SHOULD KNOW BETTER BY NOW.

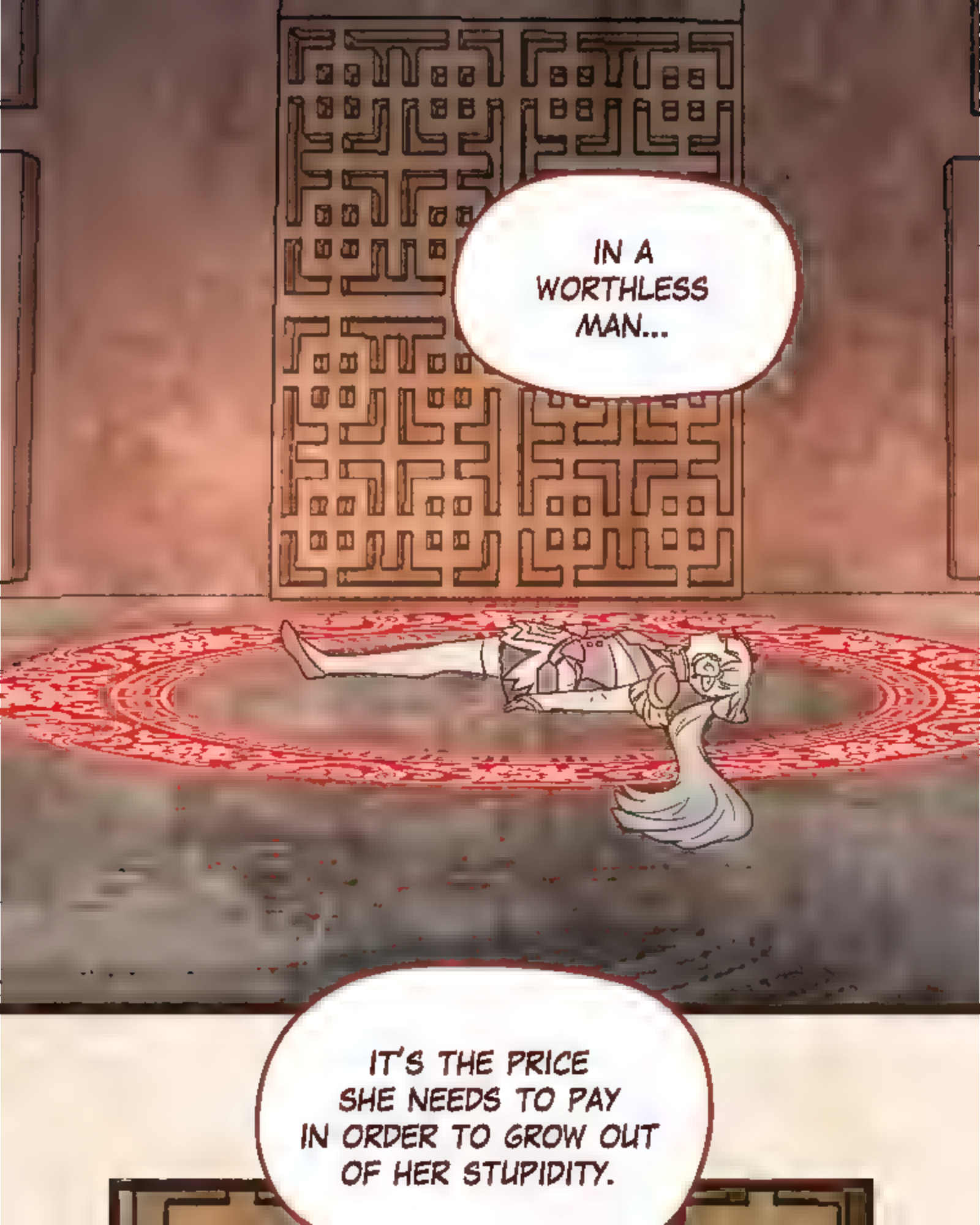
WHAT IS YOUR FINAL DECISION ON LADY SAKURAKO, MY GRACE?
WHATEVER SHE'S CAN TAKE BEFORE SHE ACTUALLY DROPS DEAD, DO IT.
THEN SEND

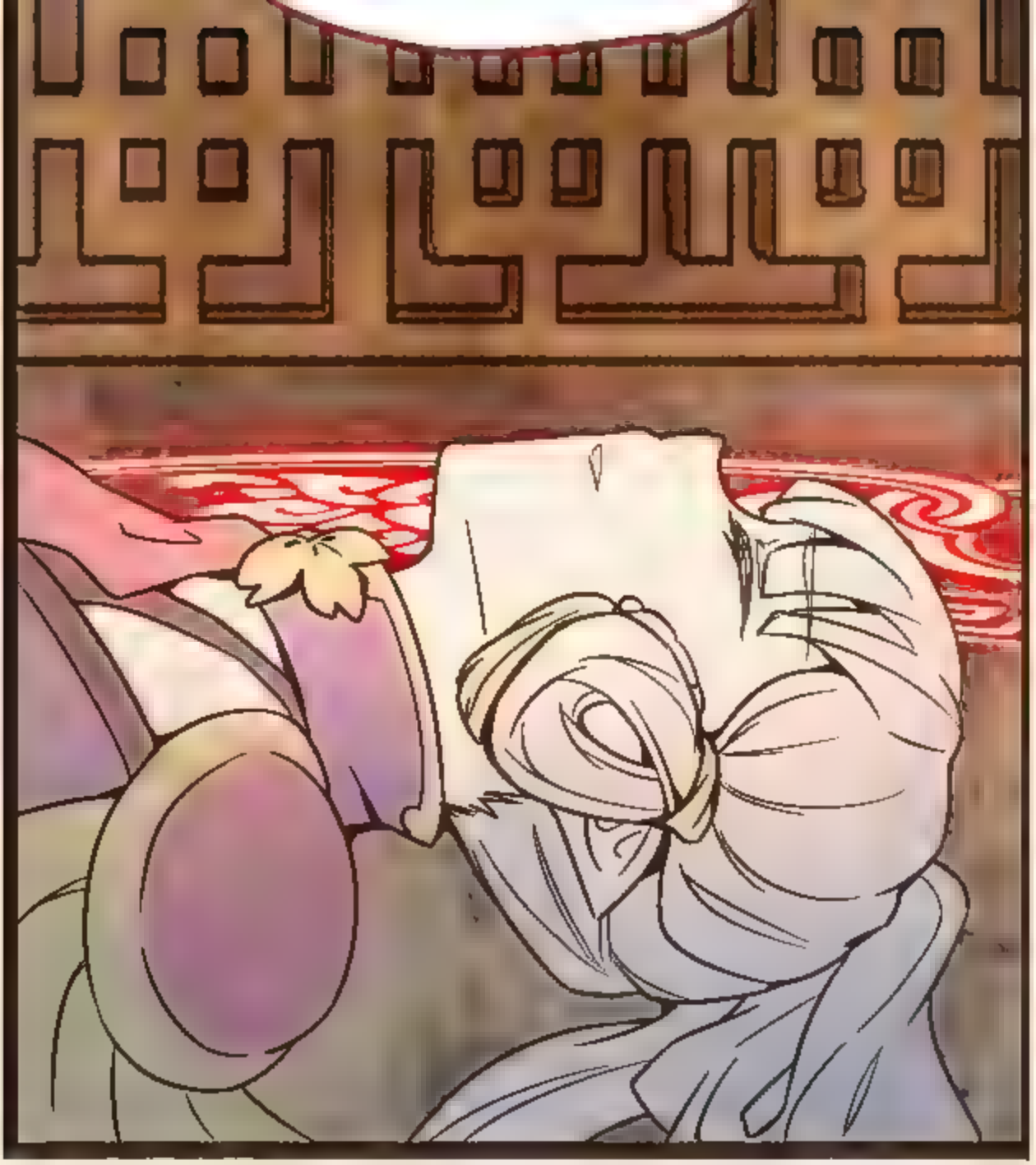
A DOCTOR TO HEAL HER, AND REPEAT THE CYCLE TEN MORE TIMES.

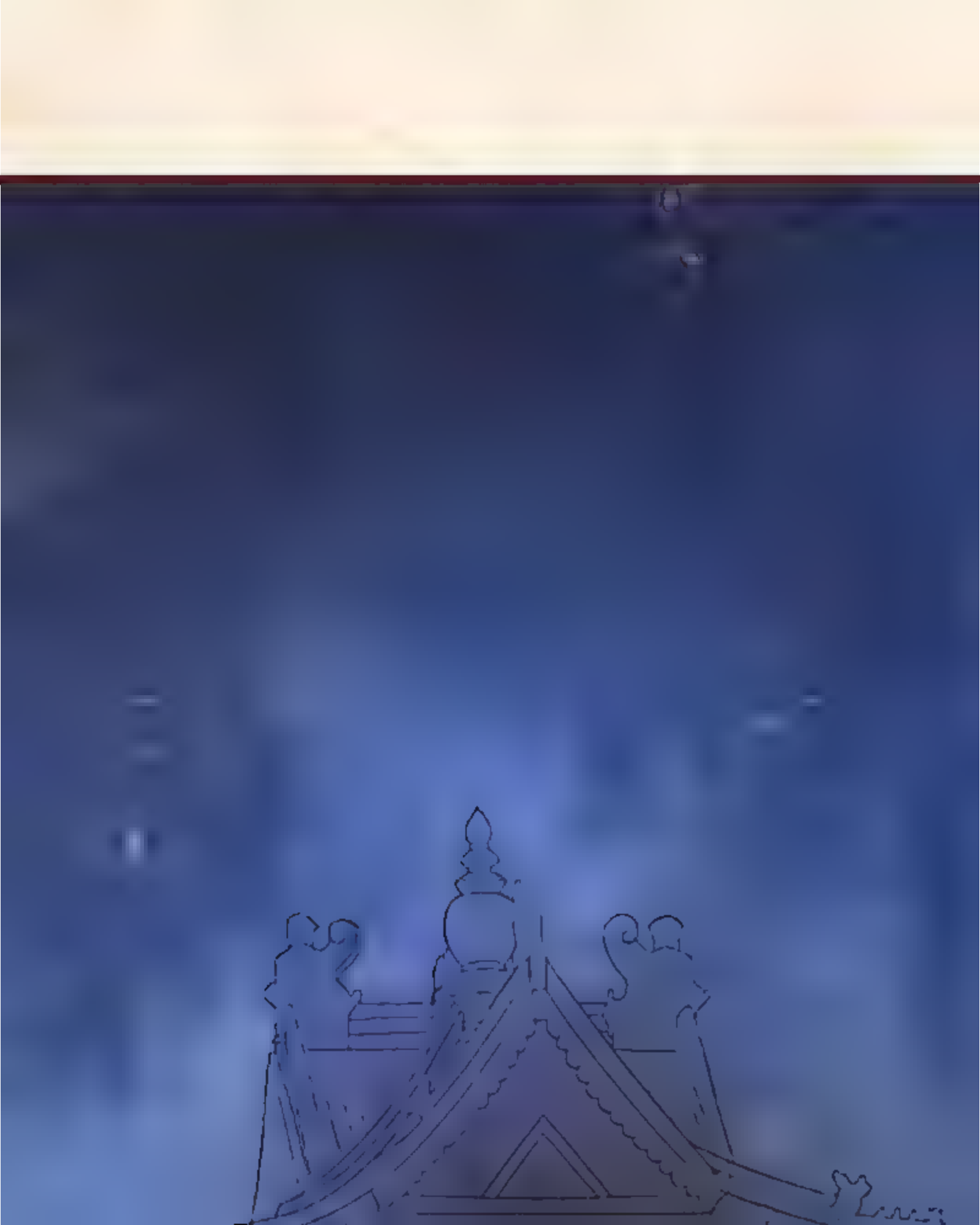
THE LITTLE GIRL IS ONE OF THE MOST SHELTERED CHILDREN IN PHANTOM PARADISE...

...I DON'T THINK A CHILD LIKE THAT COULD BEAR EVEN THE LIGHTEST BEATING...


THERE ARE TRILLIONS OF WAYS TO TORTURE SOMEONE, NOT ALL OF THEM PHYSICAL.
SHE ASKED FOR IT HERSELF--
--PUTTING SO MUCH OF HER HEART AND FAITH IN A WORTHLESS CONCUBINE.

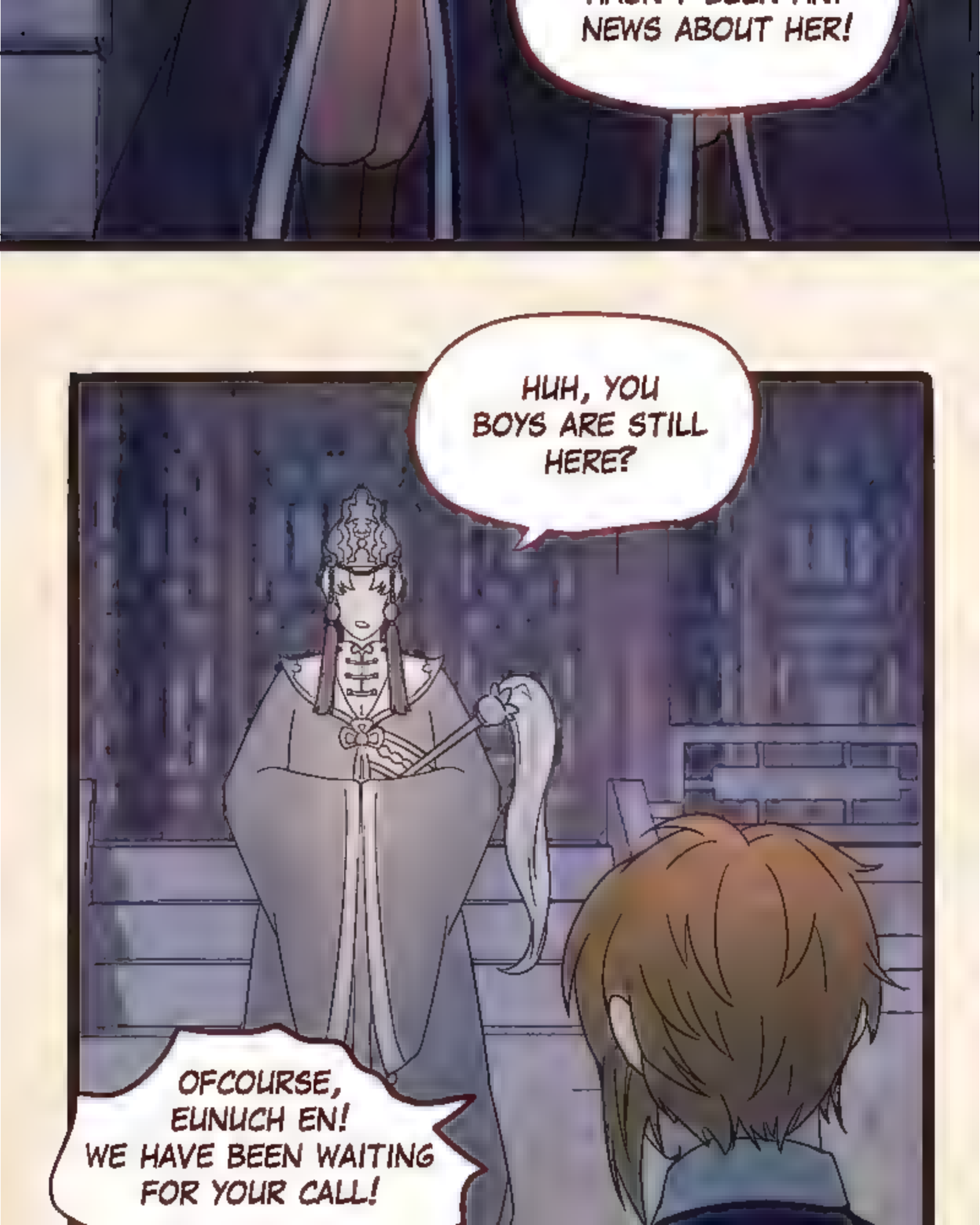

IN A WORTHLESS MAN...
IT'S THE PRICE SHE NEEDS TO PAY IN ORDER TO GROW OUT OF HER STUPIDITY.



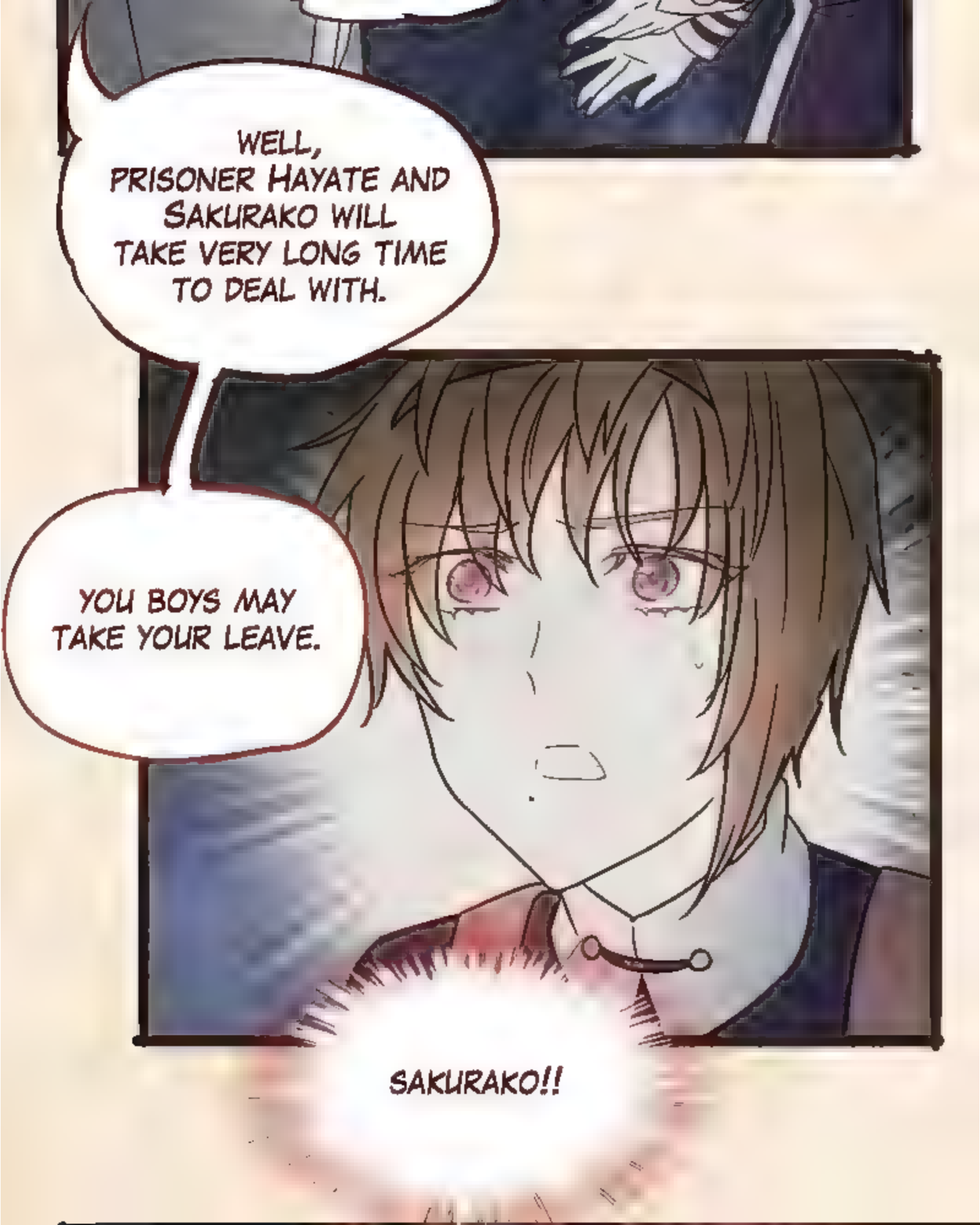


WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR 2 HOURS..
EUNUCH EN MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN TO TELL HER MAJESTY ABOUT OUR SERVICE TONIGHT!

WE SHOULD JUST LEAVE, DIAMOND.
THERE ARE FOURTEEN CONCUBINES IN LINE AHEAD OF US.
BUT IF WE DON'T GET INSIDE, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FIND OUT SAKURAKO'S CURRENT STATUS!
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS AND THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY

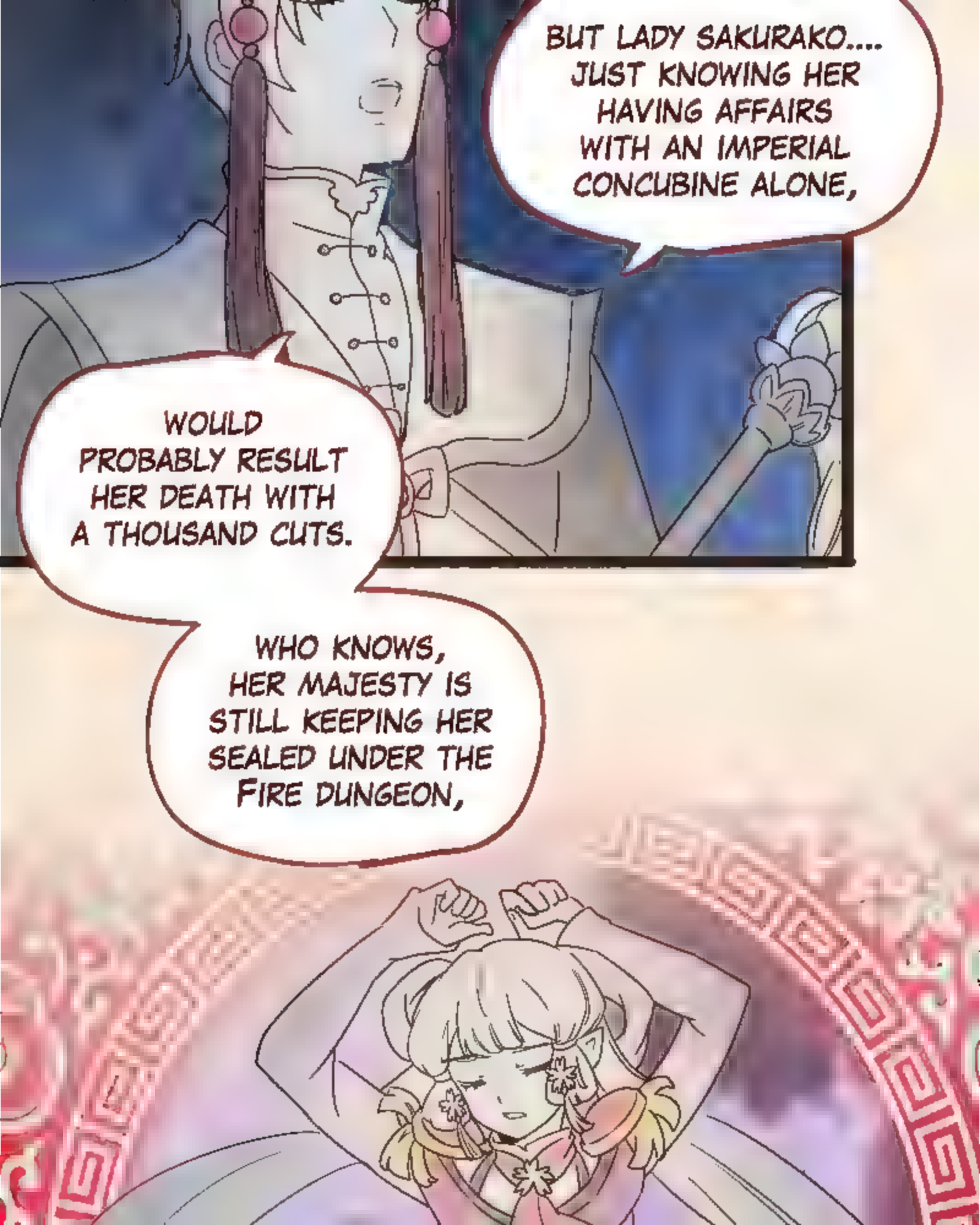

NEWS ABOUT HER!
HUH, YOU BOYS ARE STILL HERE?
OFCOURSE, EUNUCH EN! WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOUR CALL!

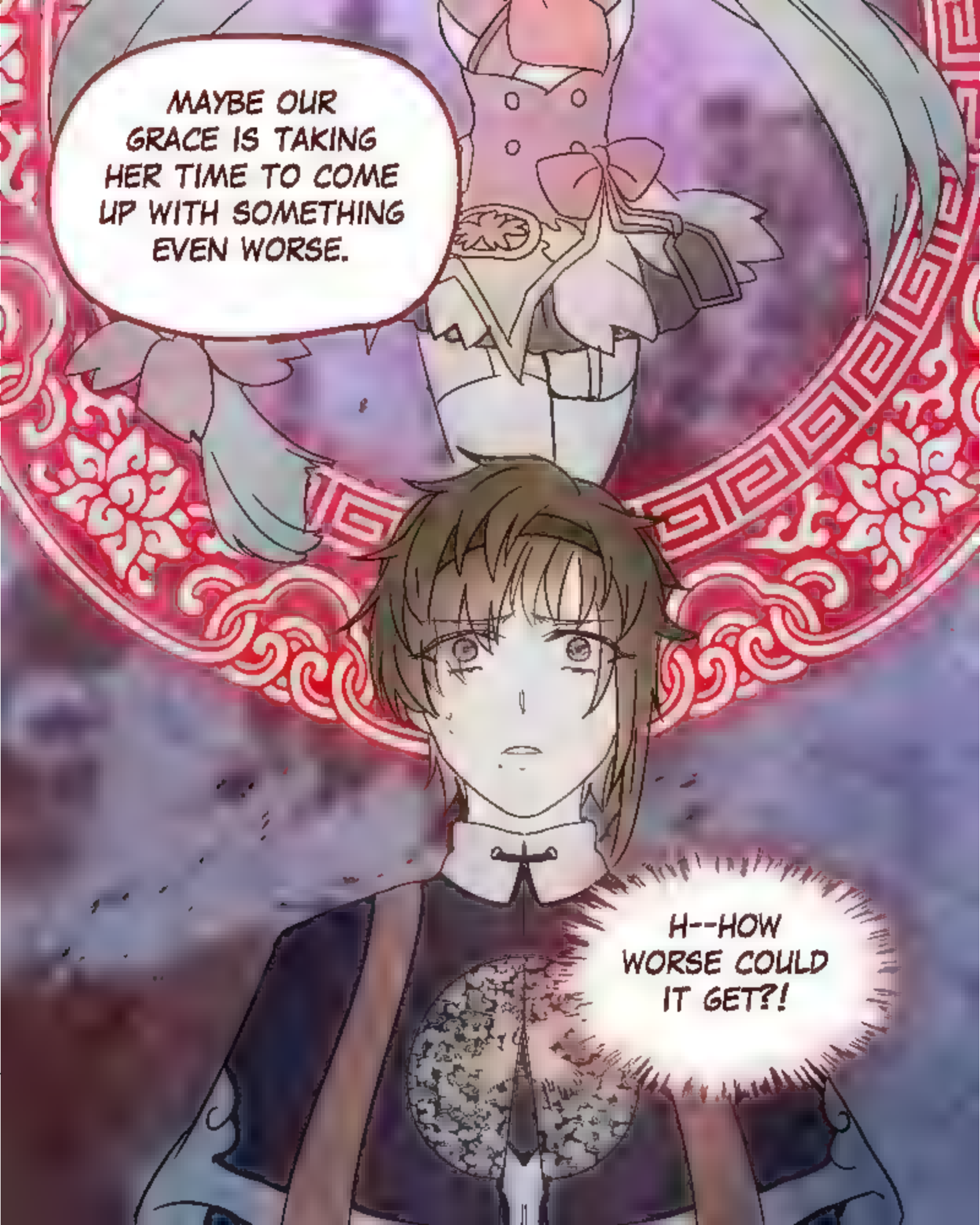
HOW IS HER ROYAL MAJESTY TONIGHT?
HER MAJESTY WILL BE BUSY WITH WORK FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT,
W--WE CAN WAIT LONGER UNTIL HER MAJESTY IS DONE AND SERVE HER TO SLEEP!


WELL,
PRISONER HAYATE AND
SAKURAKO WILL
TAKE VERY LONG TIME
TO DEAL WITH.
YOU BOYS MAY
TAKE YOUR LEAVE.
SAKURAKO!!

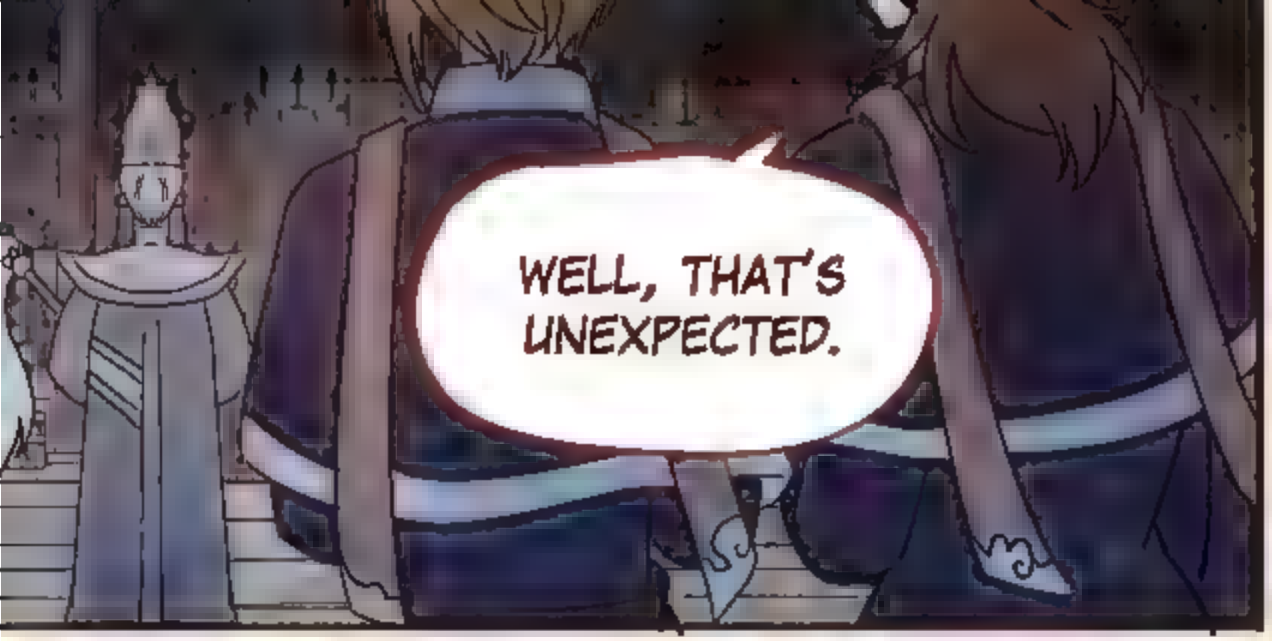
UMM,
MAY I ASK WHAT
WILL HER MAJESTY
DO TO HAYATE AND
SAKURAKO?

I HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT IS
GOING TO COME
FOR HAYATE.


BUT LADY SAKURAKO....
JUST KNOWING HER
HAVING AFFAIRS
WITH AN IMPERIAL
CONCUBINE ALONE,
WOULD
PROBABLY RESULT
HER DEATH WITH
A THOUSAND CUTS.
WHO KNOWS,
HER MAJESTY IS
STILL KEEPING HER
SEALED UNDER THE
FIRE DUNGEON,


MAYBE OUR GRACE IS TAKING HER TIME TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING EVEN WORSE.
H--HOW WORSE COULD IT GET?!

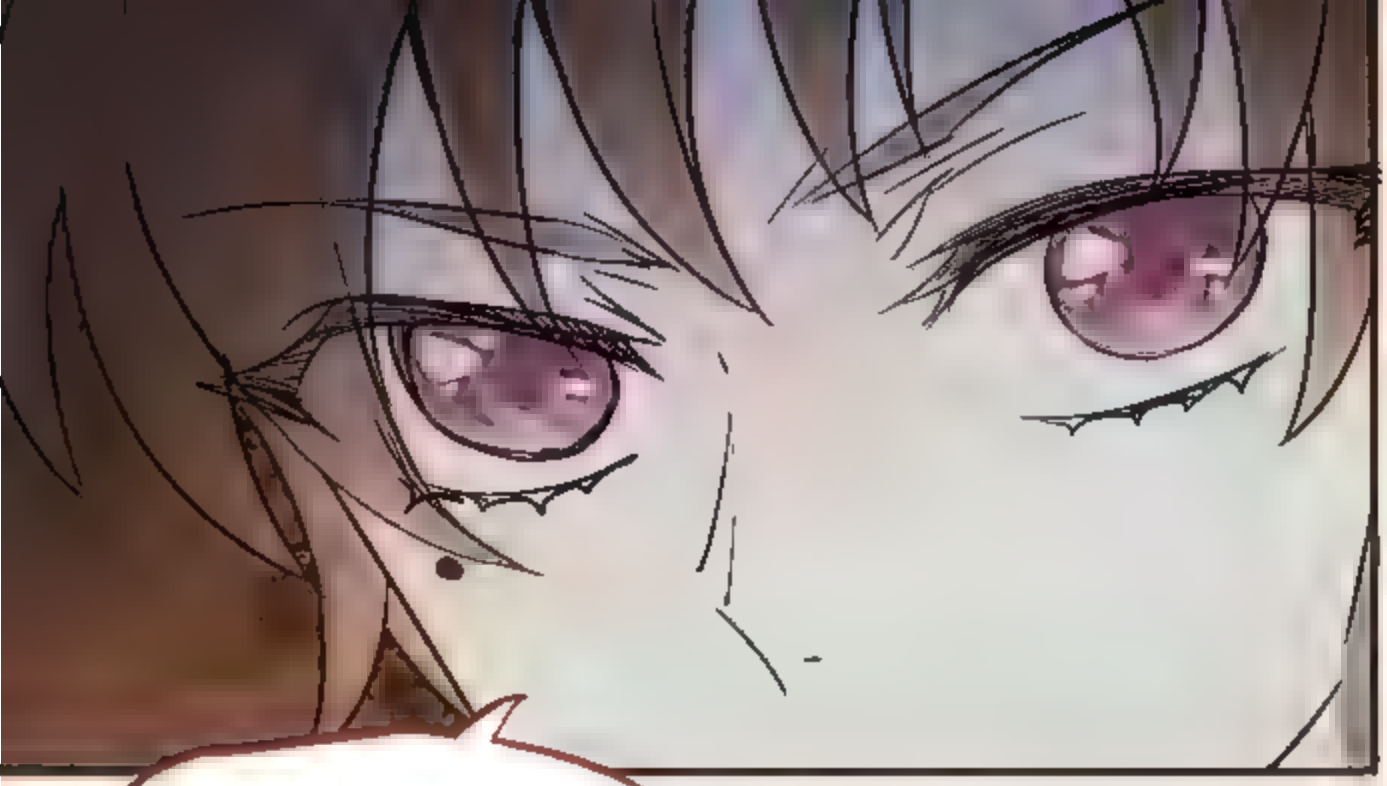
THANK YOU, EUNICH EN!
OH, NO WORRIES, I WILL PUT YOU BOYS ON THE PRIORITY LIST NEXT TIME!


WELL, THAT'S UNEXPECTED.

I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SO SYMPATHETIC TO A PAWN.
I WONDER WHAT MOTHER WOULD THINK ABOUT YOU GROWING A CONSCIENCE

A CONSCIENCE.
QUIT JOKING AROUND, BROTHER, THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!
WE ARE THE ONES WHO ORDERED SAKURAKO TO EXPOSE HAYATE,
I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT HER MAJESTY DOESN'T START INVESTIGATING US.

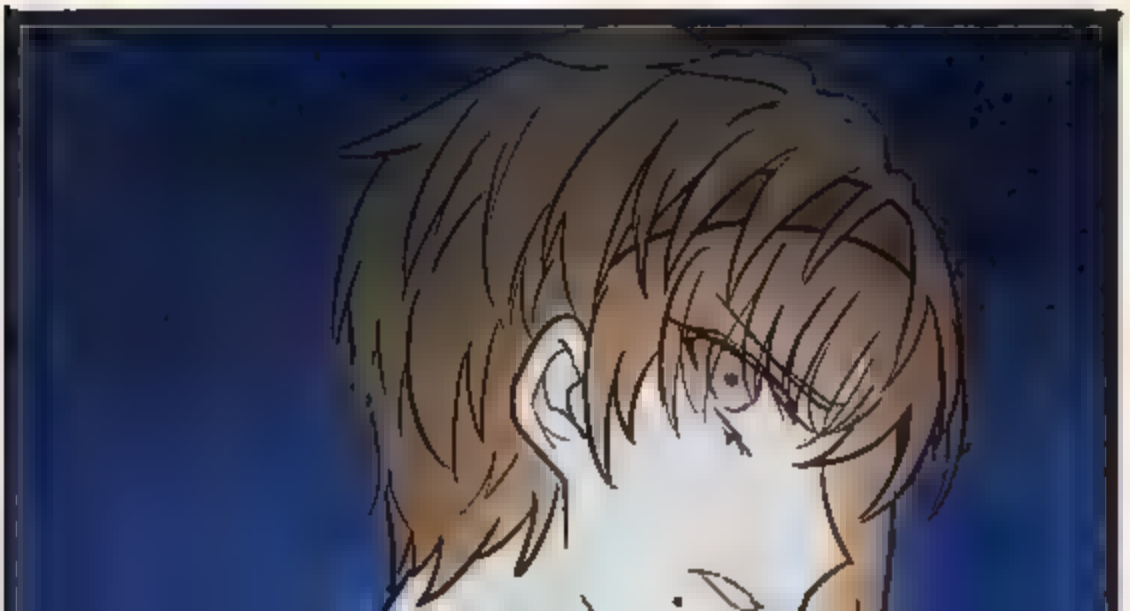
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT, DIAMOND.



I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T THINK
OF THAT.

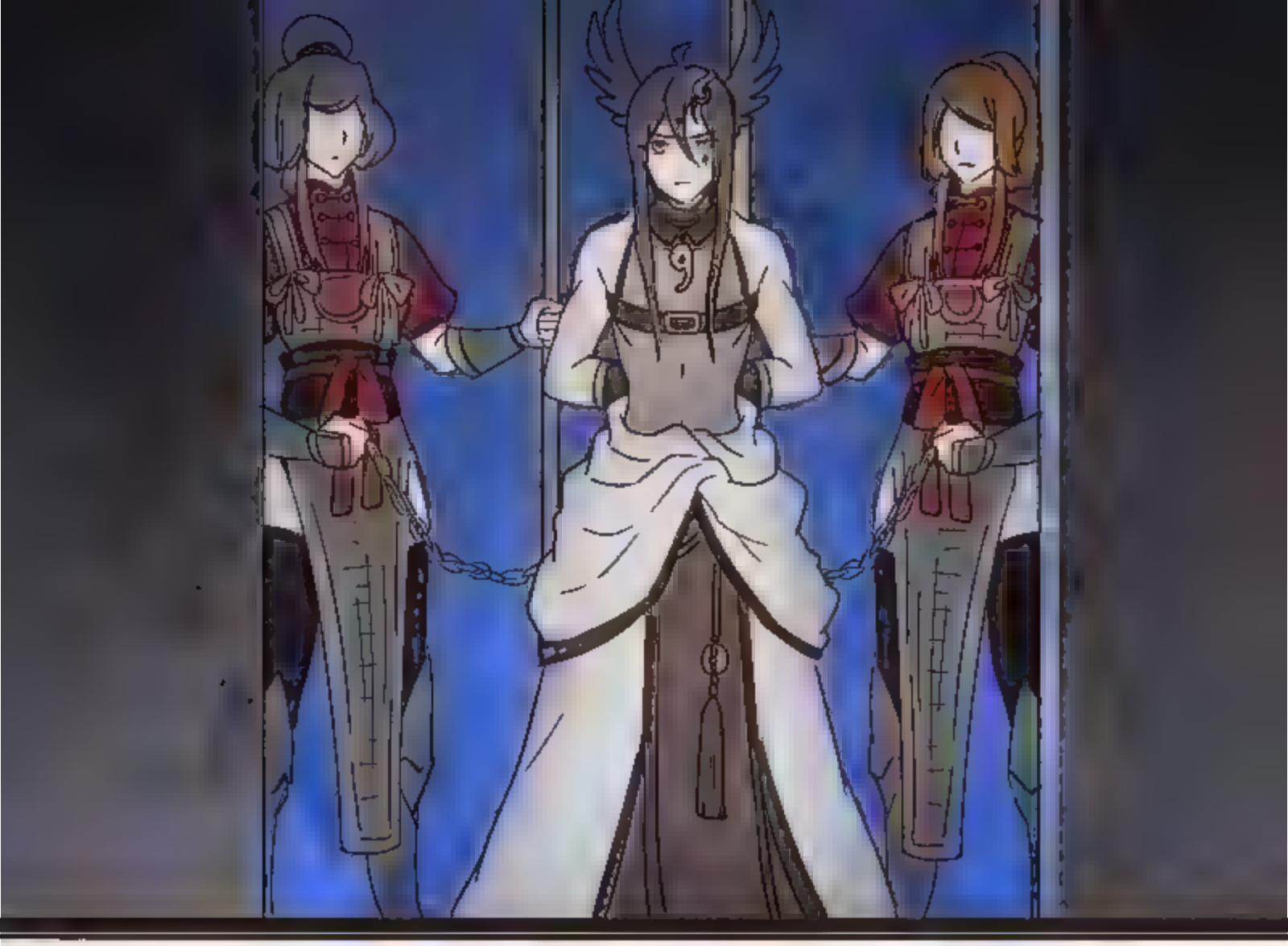
LETS GO BACK
TO MOTHER'S

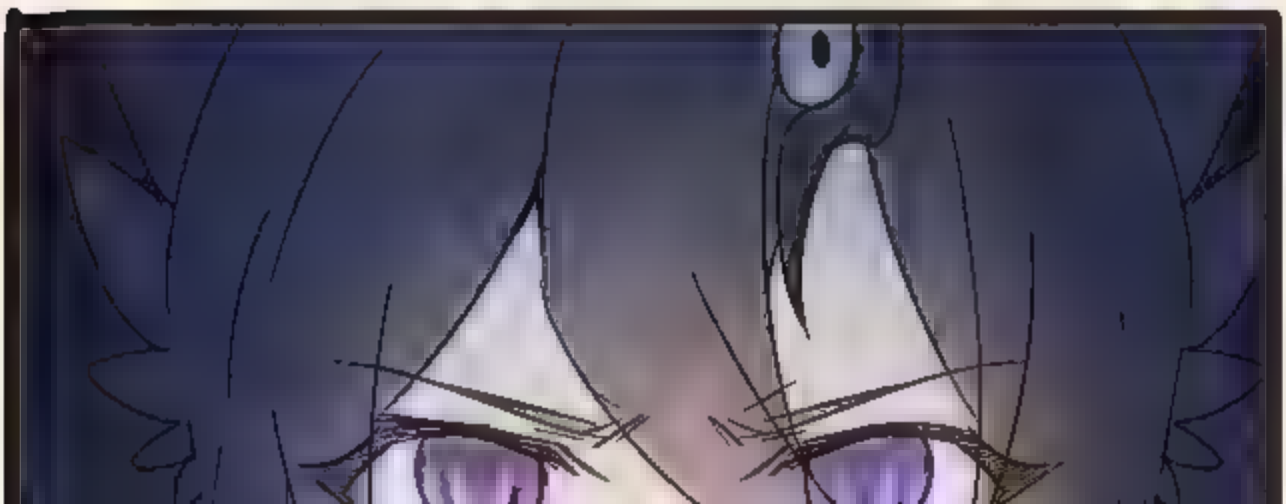
PALACE AND PLAN
OUR NEXT STEPS.
YES,
BROTHER!

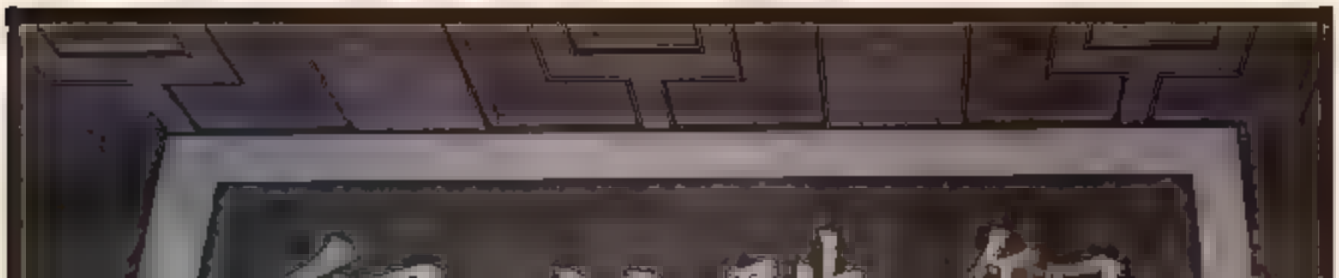


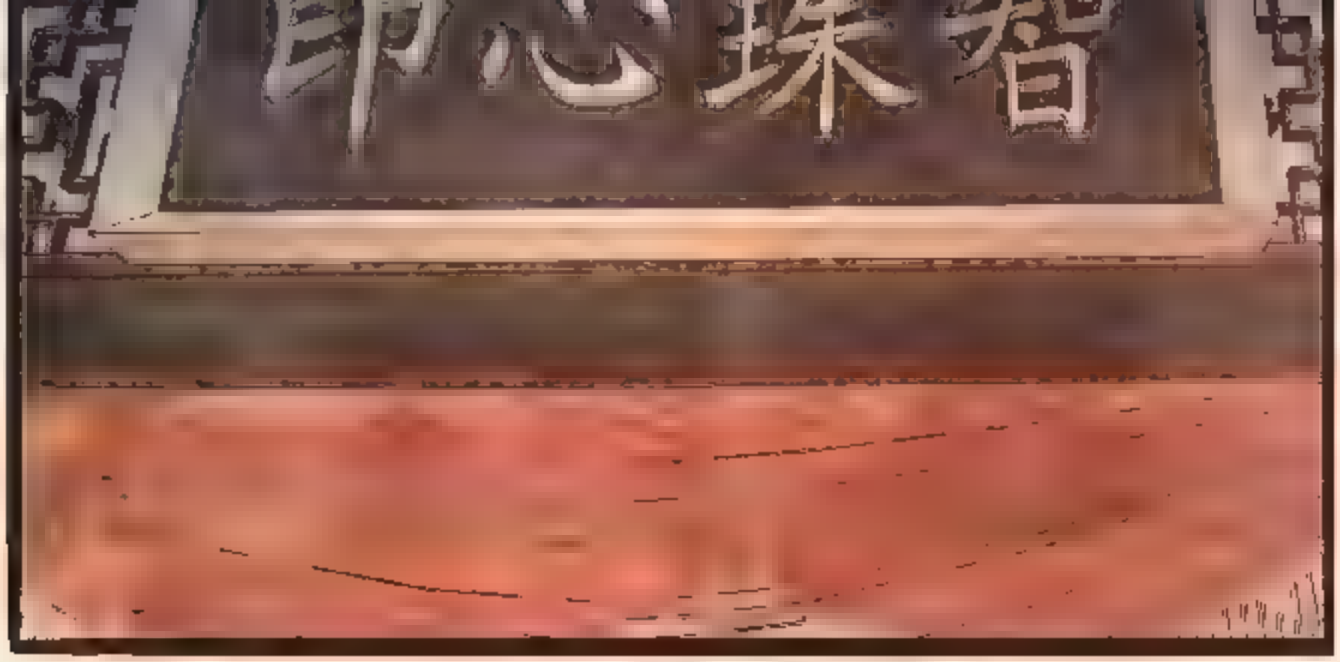
HANG
IN THERE,
SAKURAKO...

I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THIS MESS!!



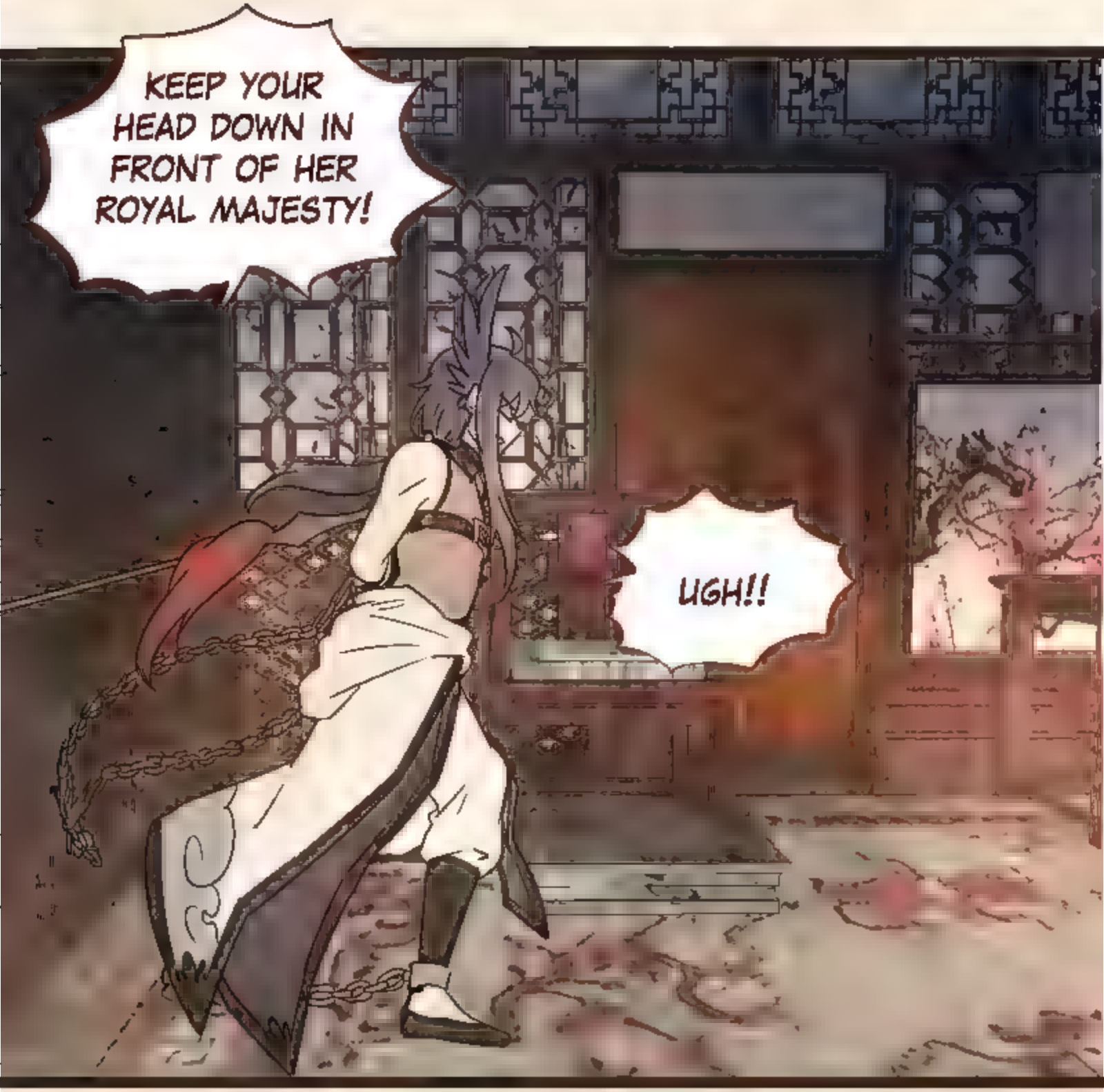


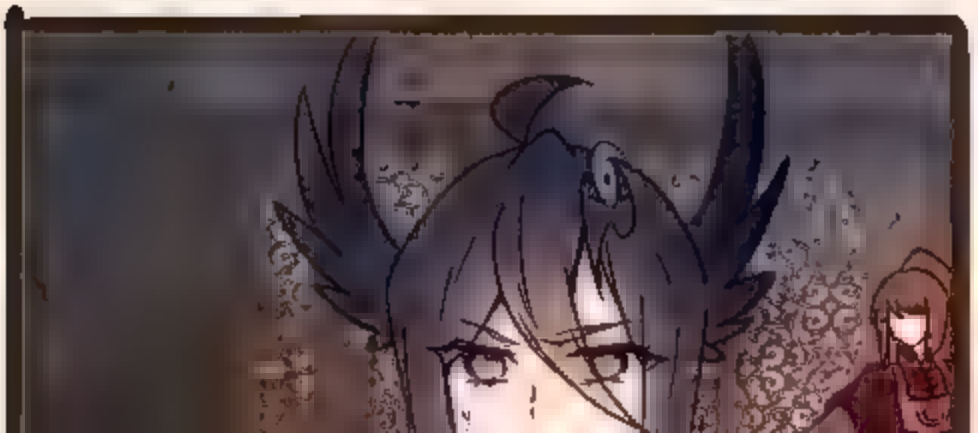


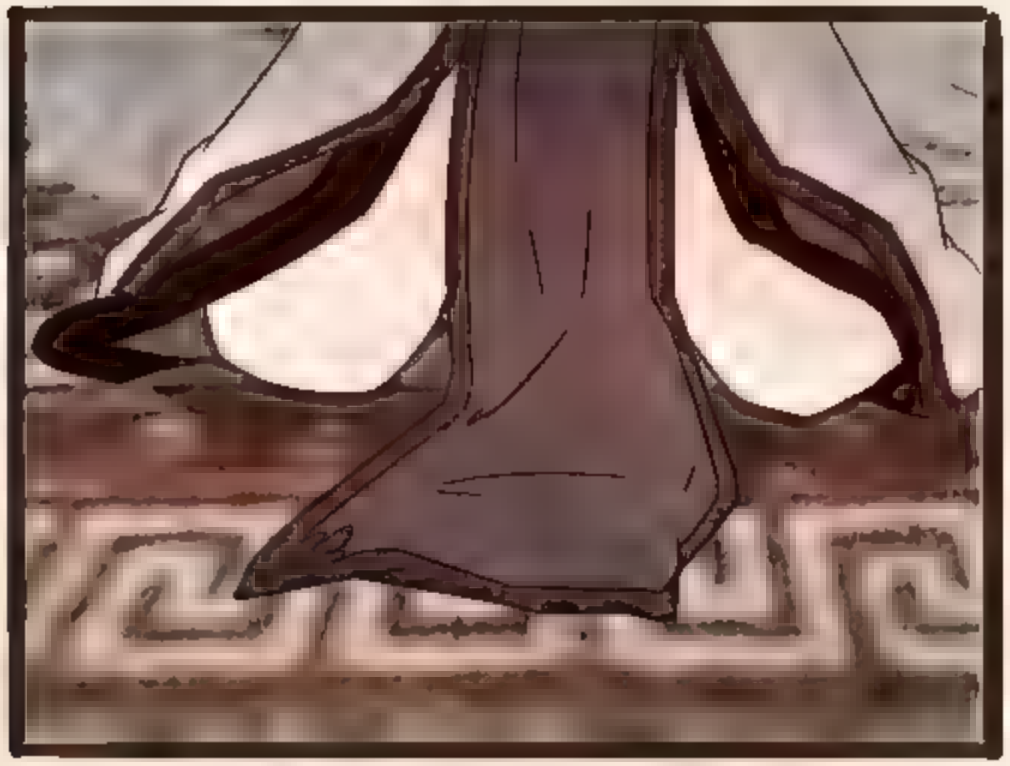

智珠心印

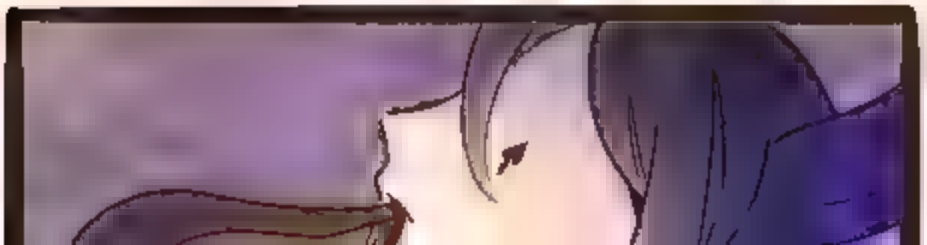
LOOK AT YOU, HAYATE...

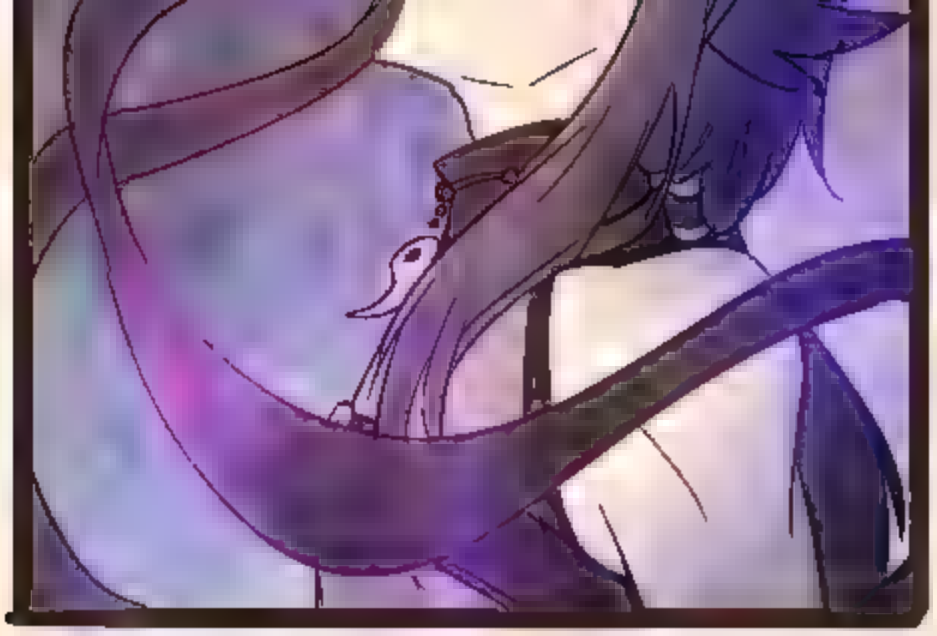
EVEN THE UGLIEST DUCKLING HAS MORE DIGNITY THAN YOU DO RIGHT NOW.

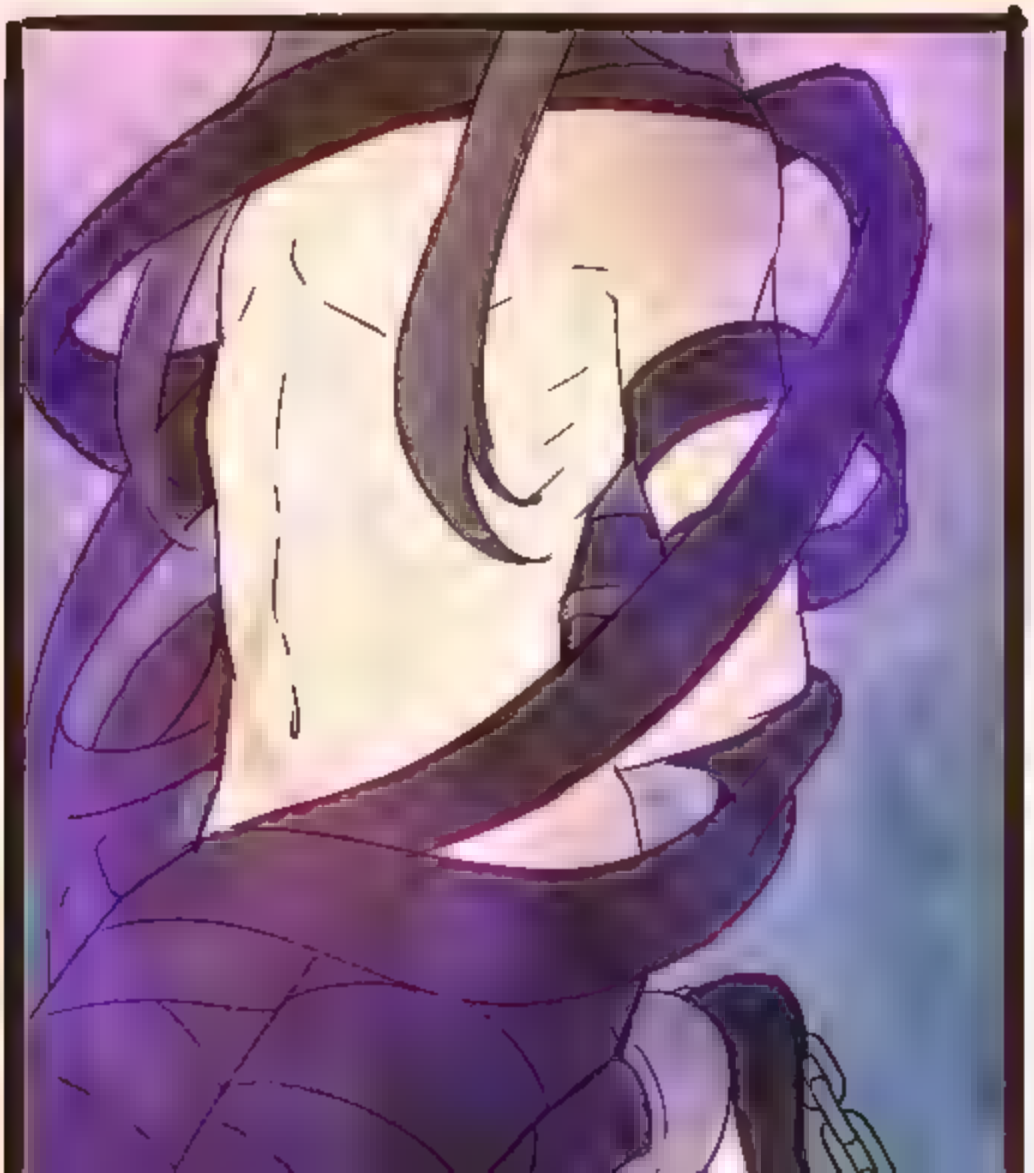

KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN IN FRONT OF HER ROYAL MAJESTY!
UGH!!

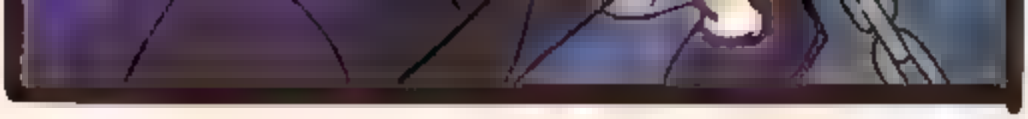












GREETINGS TO MY ROYAL MAJESTY,

I HEREBY PRESENT MY HUMBLE SELF TO YOUR HOLY GRACE,

PLEASE SPARE MY UNWORTHY BODY AND WEAK MANA,

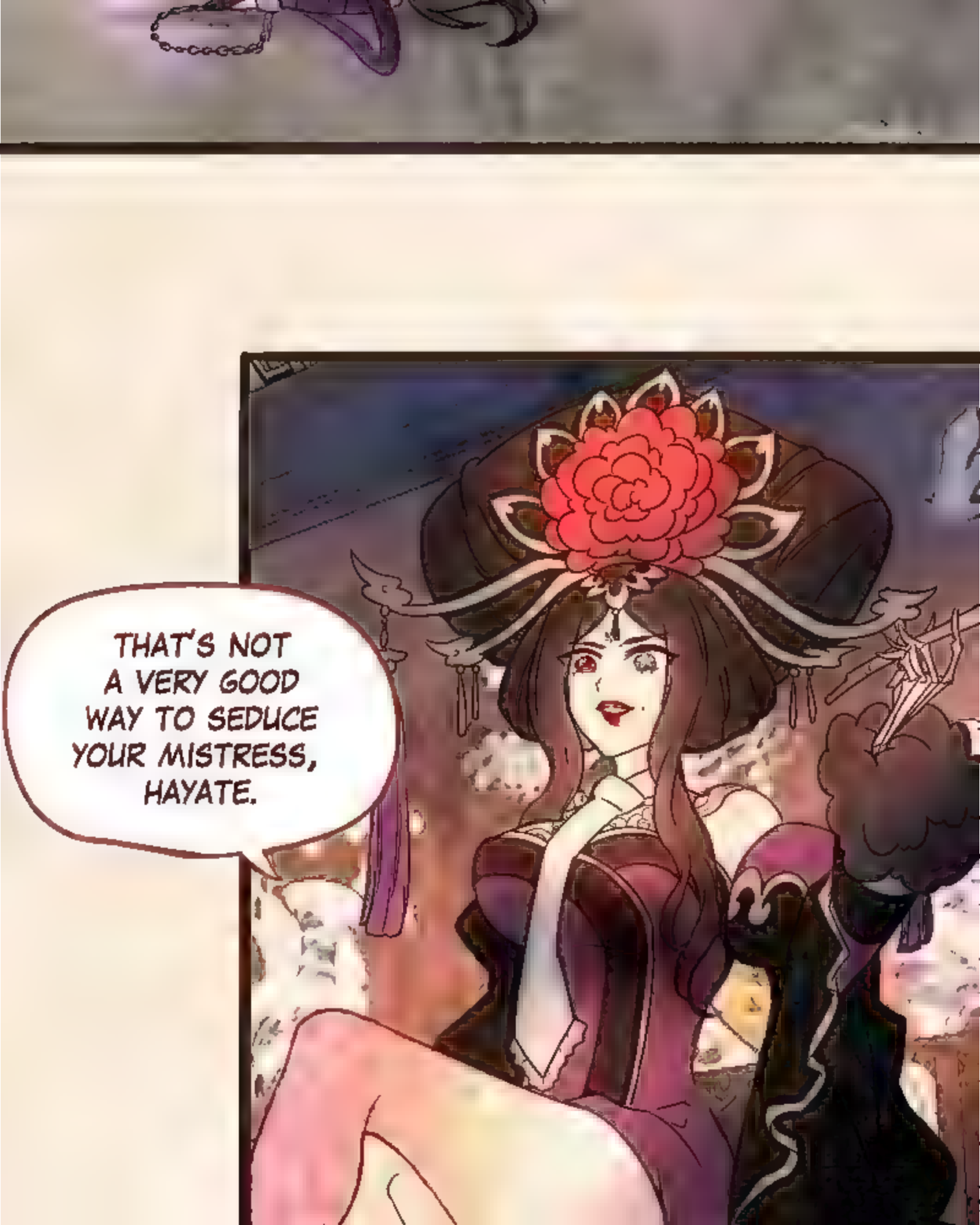
AND TAKE UP EVERYTHING THAT'S LEFT OF ME AS YOU DESIRE...

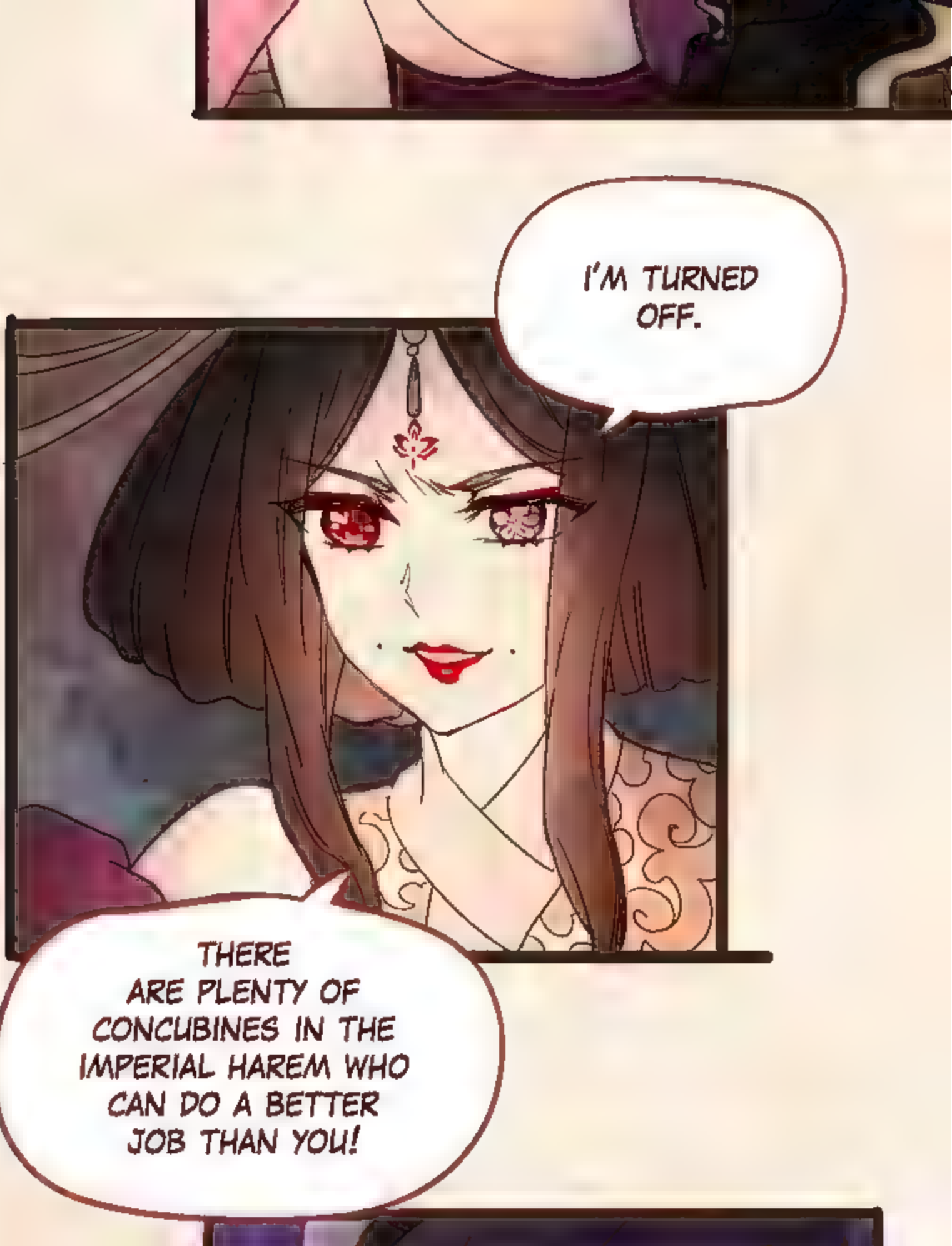
I KNOW THIS IS NOT ENOUGH TO PAY FOR AN IMPERIAL DOCTOR,

BUT THIS IS THE MOST I CAN DO TO REPAY YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY--

PLEASE, SAVE MY FRIEND...

HE IS ON HIS LAST BREATH!


THAT'S NOT A VERY GOOD WAY TO SEDUCE YOUR MISTRESS, HAYATE.


I'M TURNED OFF.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF CONCUBINES IN THE IMPERIAL HAREM WHO CAN DO A BETTER JOB THAN YOU!

TSK..

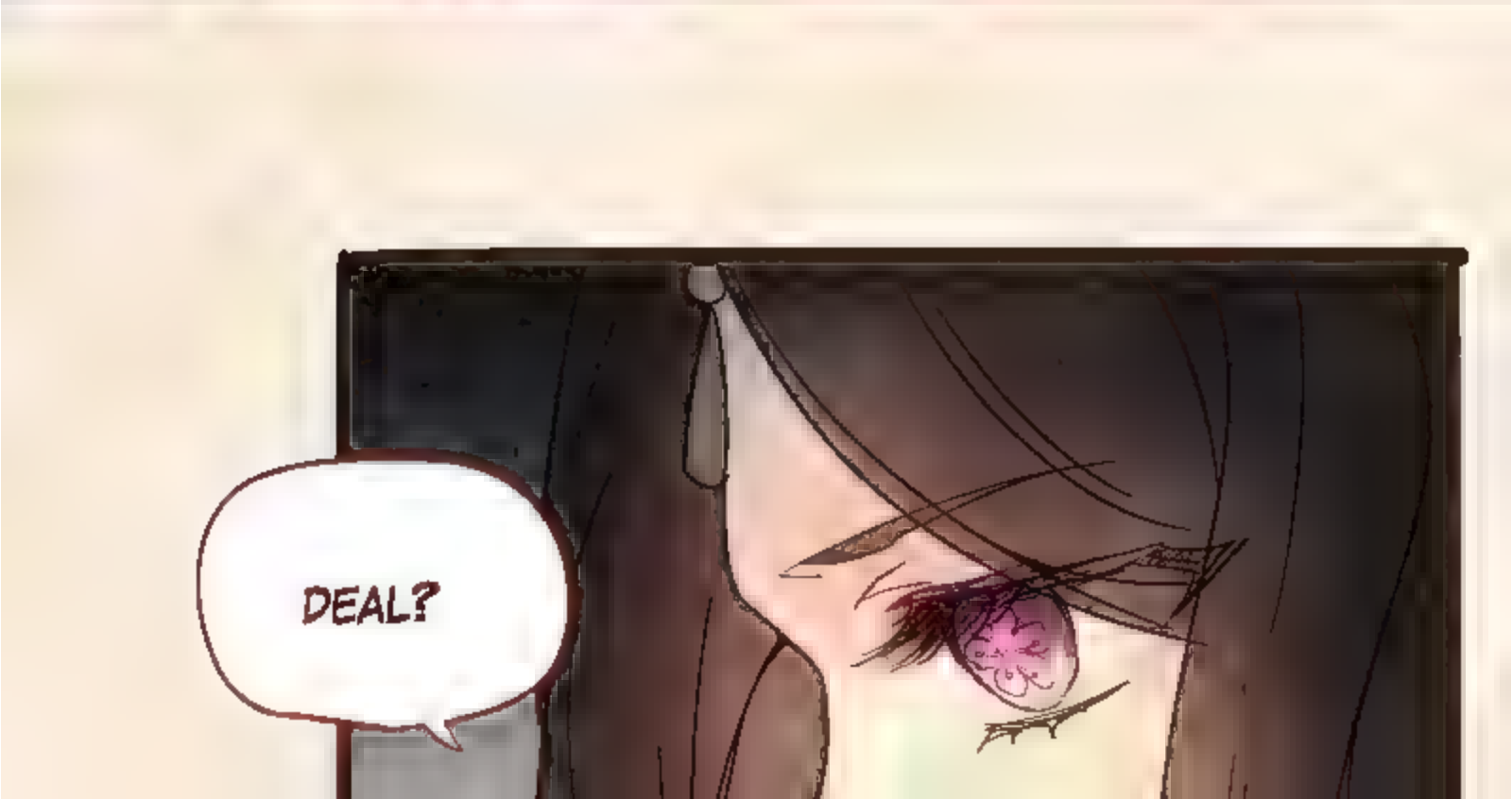
HOW ABOUT WE TAKE SOME BABY STEPS,

JUST RECALL WHAT I OFFERED YOU LAST TIME,
BECOME MY PERSONAL TAOIST OF HADES.

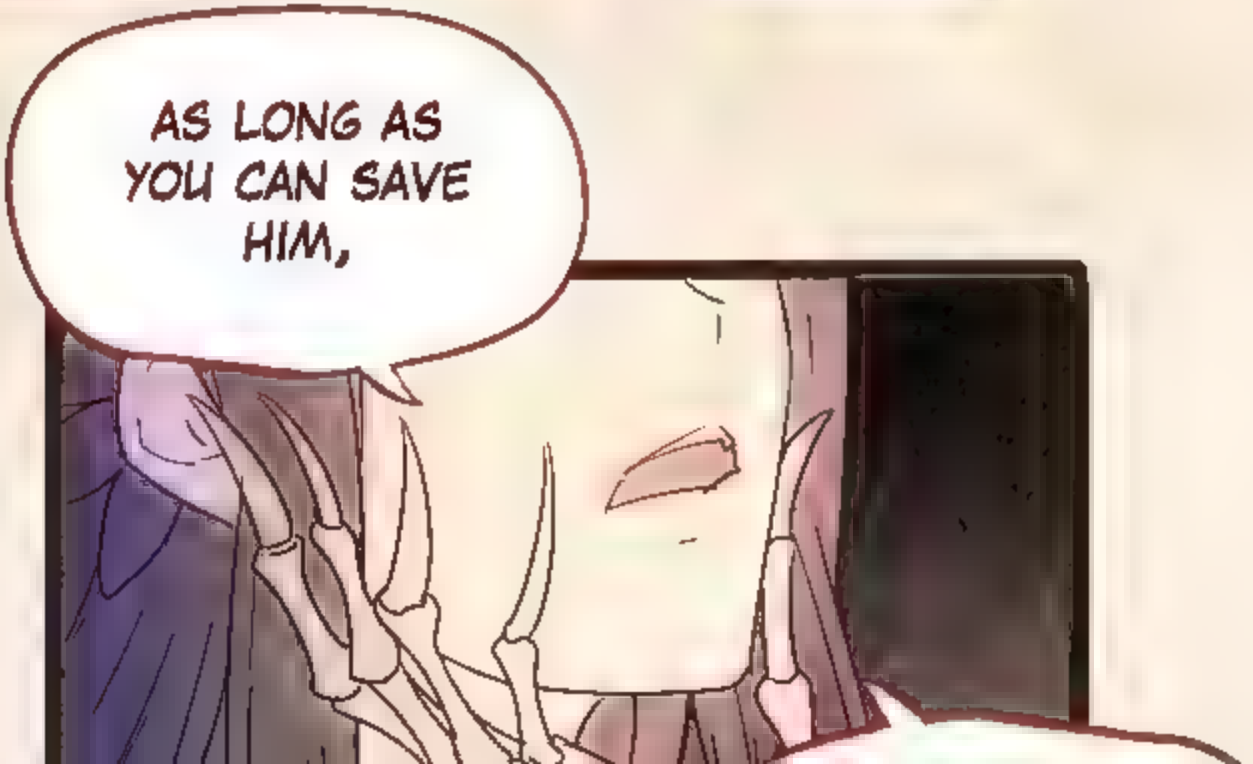
AND THEN

I SHALL SLOWLY,
CAREFULLY,
GRADUALLY,
TEACH YOU

THE RIGHT TECHNIQUES.


DEAL?

HMKK...


AS LONG AS YOU CAN SAVE HIM,

I WILL DO AS YOU SAY!

DON'T WORRY, I WON'T LET YOUR FRIEND DIE,
NOT ONLY THAT, I SHALL THANK HIM BY GIVING HIM REWARDS AND VALUABLE TREASURES,

IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIS IMPETUOUS CONTRACT WITH THE WHITE DEVIL,

YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE IN PHANTOM PARADISE!
YOUR FRIEND LUCIUS, IS THE TRUE HERO WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE!

WHAT... ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...
COME ON, THERE'S NO NEED TO PRETEND AT THIS POINT.

WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
YOUR FATHER'S SUICIDE,
YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH,

YOUR KAMIKAZE MISSION,
YOUR BETRAYAL OF LUCIUS,
AND YOUR FAILIURE TO SAVE HIM--

DOESN'T ALL THAT MAKE UP A WONDERFUL LIFE STORY?

W-WHAT--
WHY--

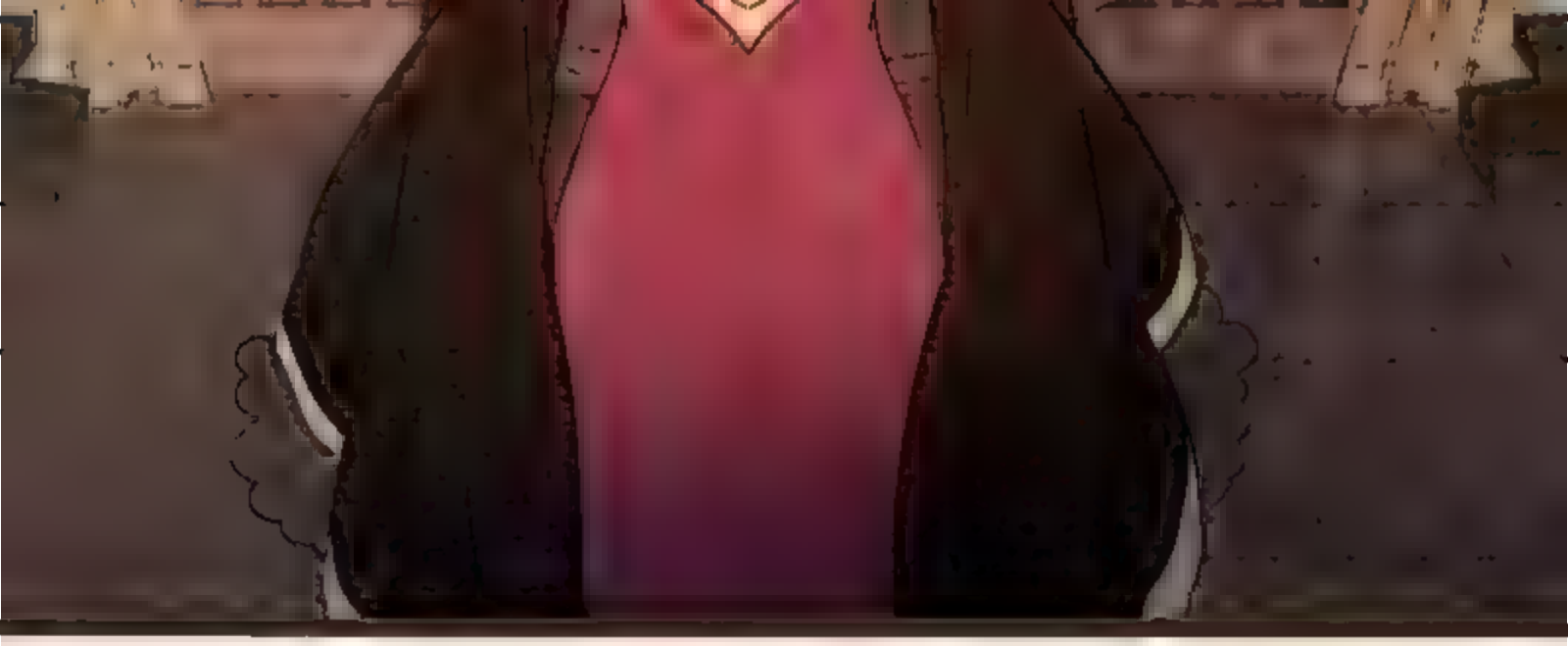
HOW DID YOU--

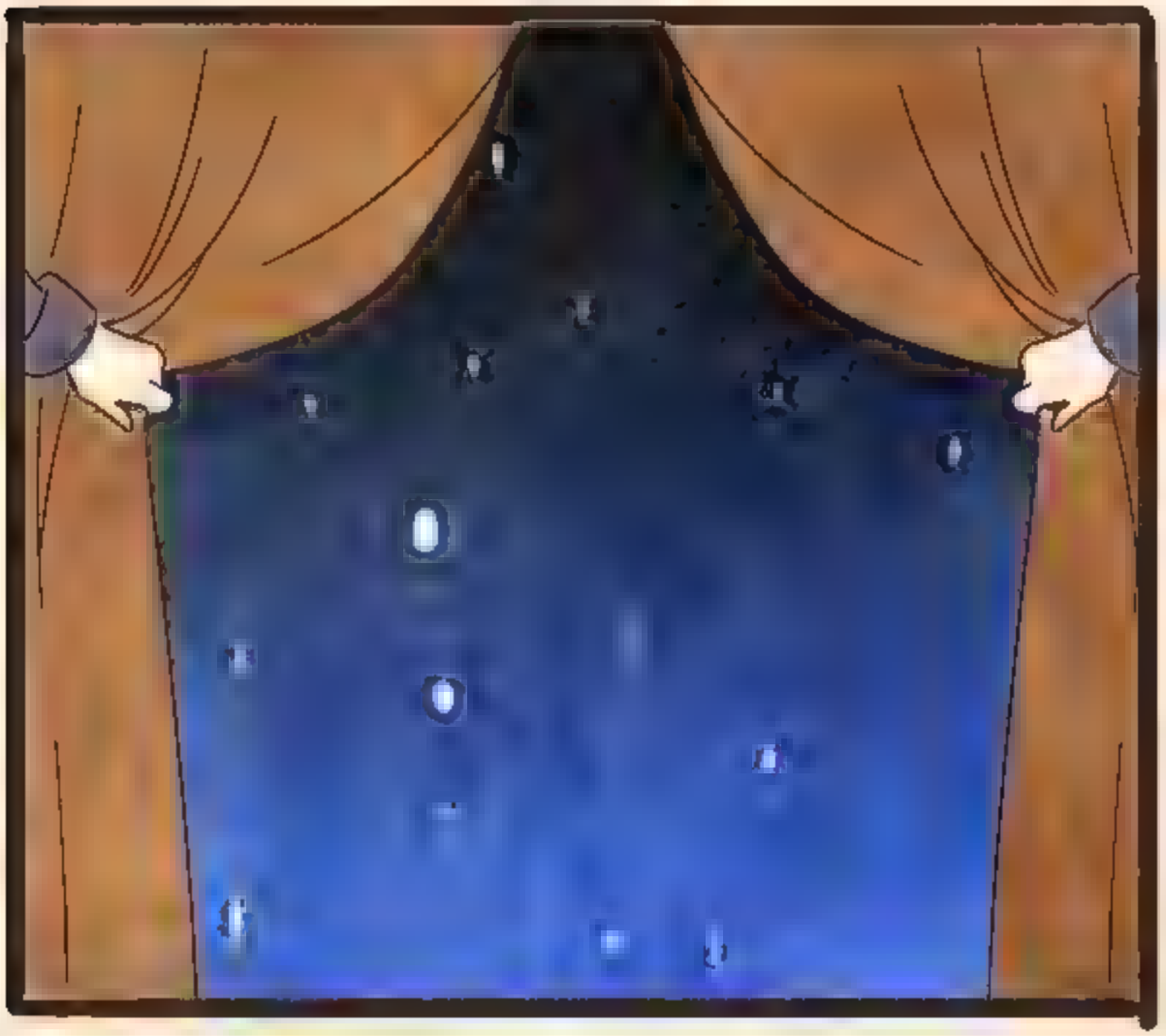
DON'T
GET ALL UPSET
JUST YET...

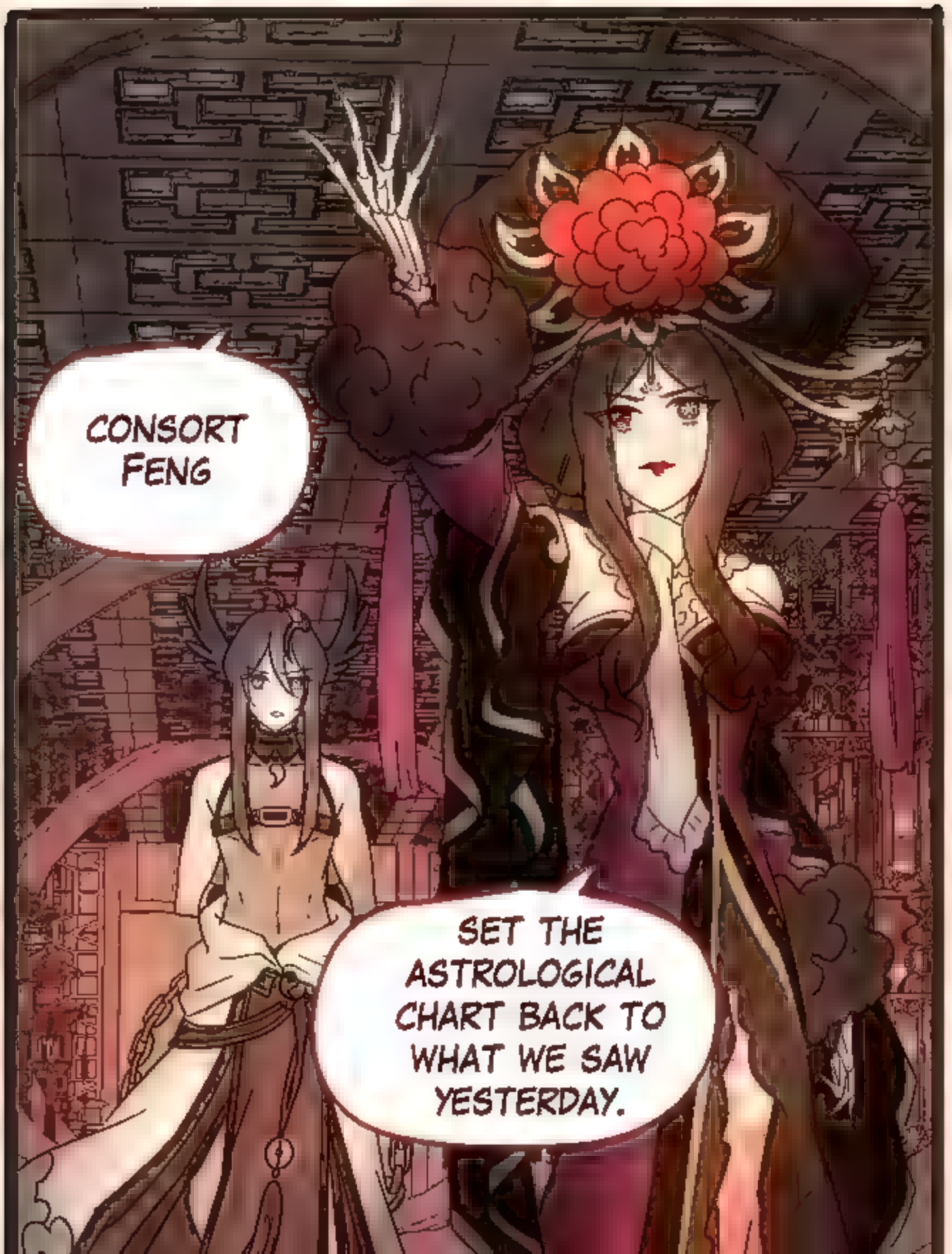
...SAVE YOUR SURPRISE FOR SOMETHING GREATER--

I KNOW WAY MORE,

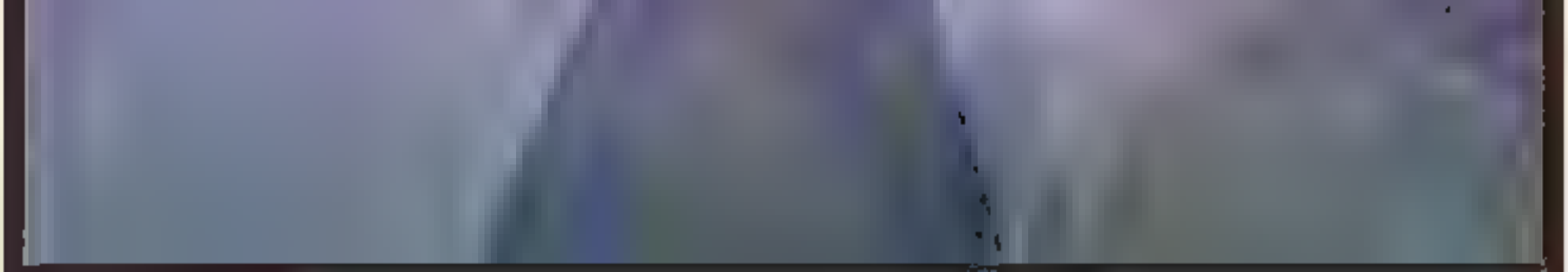
THAN YOU
COULD EVER DISCOVER
ON YOUR OWN.

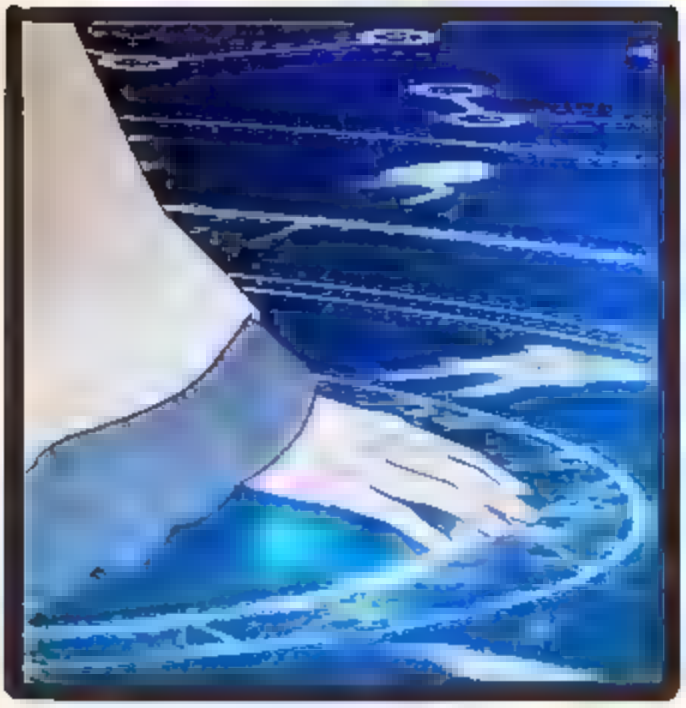


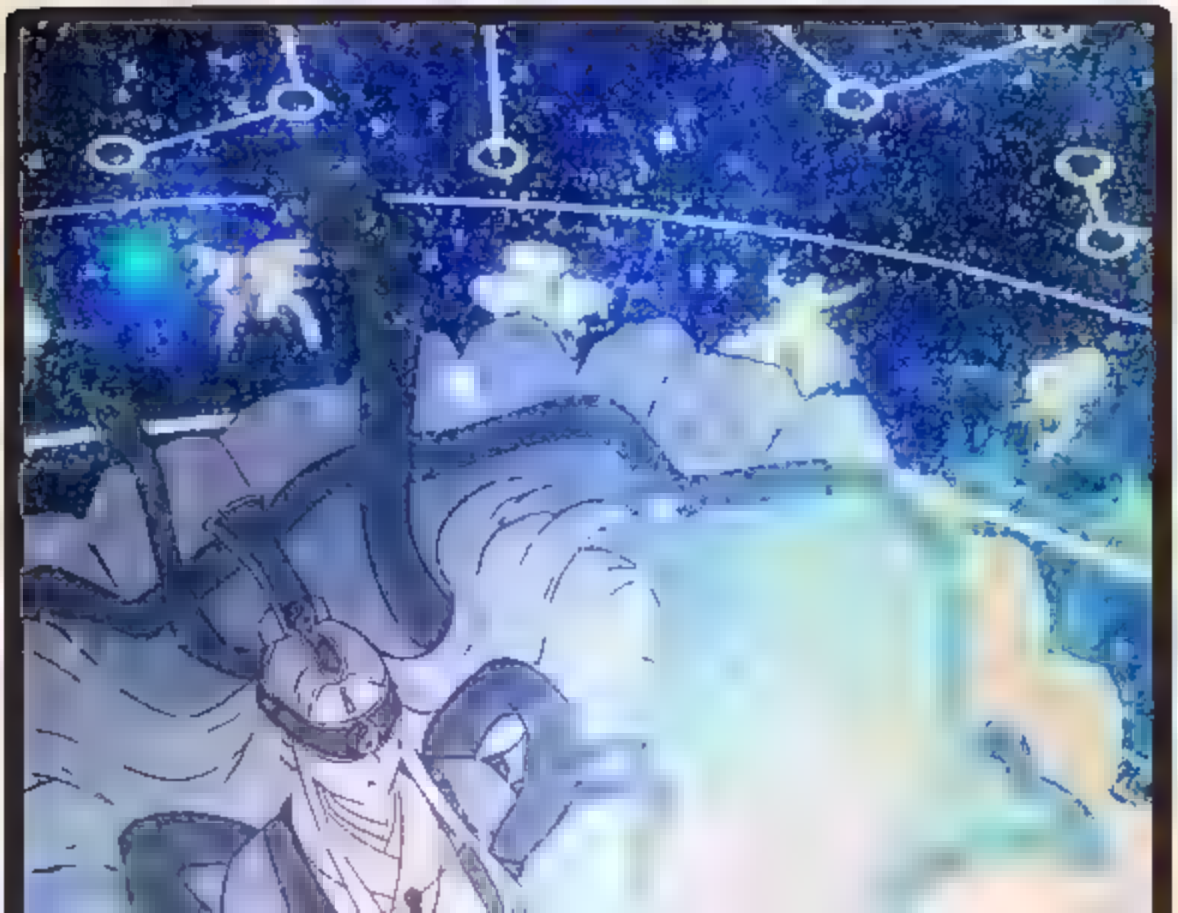


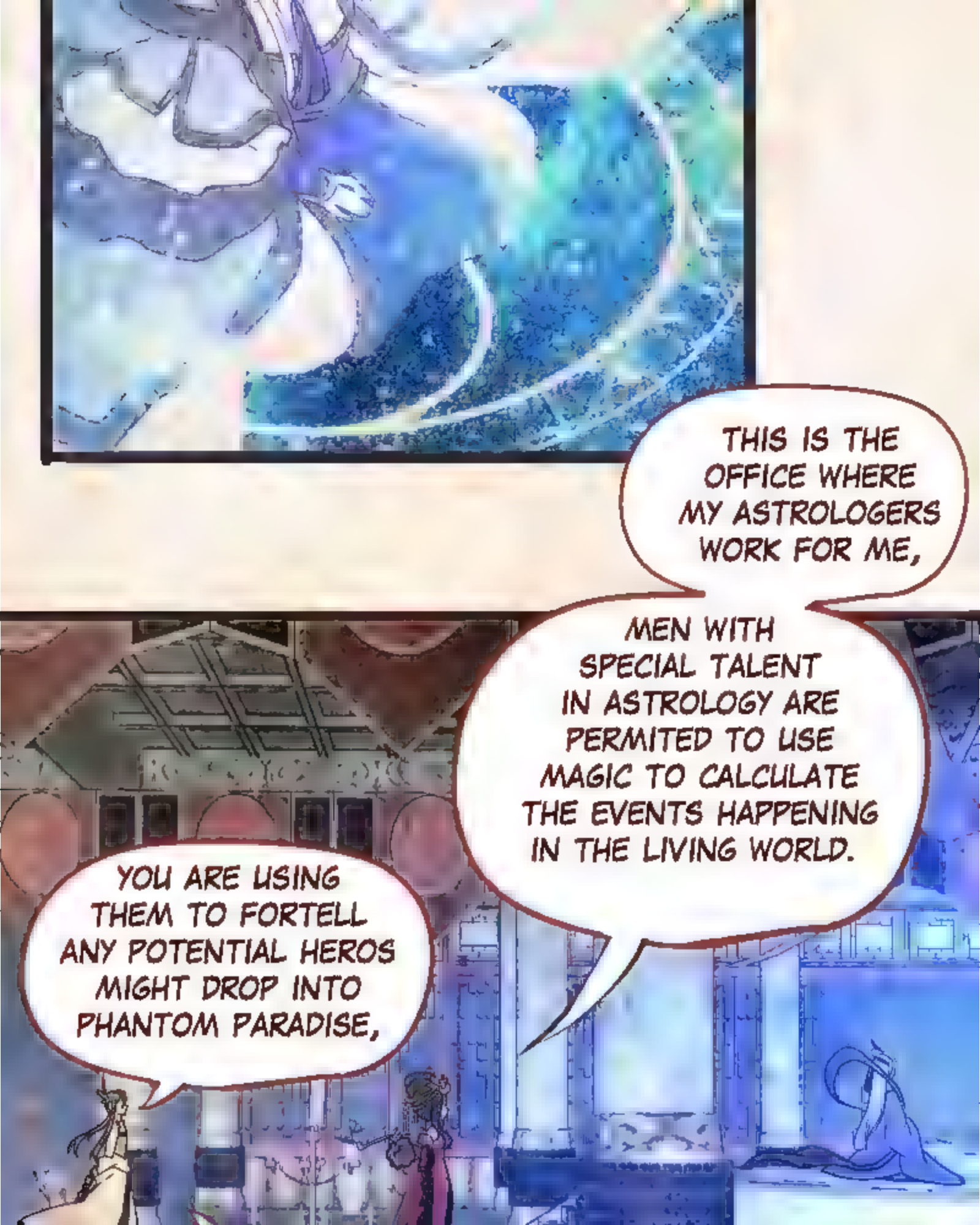

CONSORT FENG
SET THE ASTROLOGICAL CHART BACK TO WHAT WE SAW YESTERDAY.

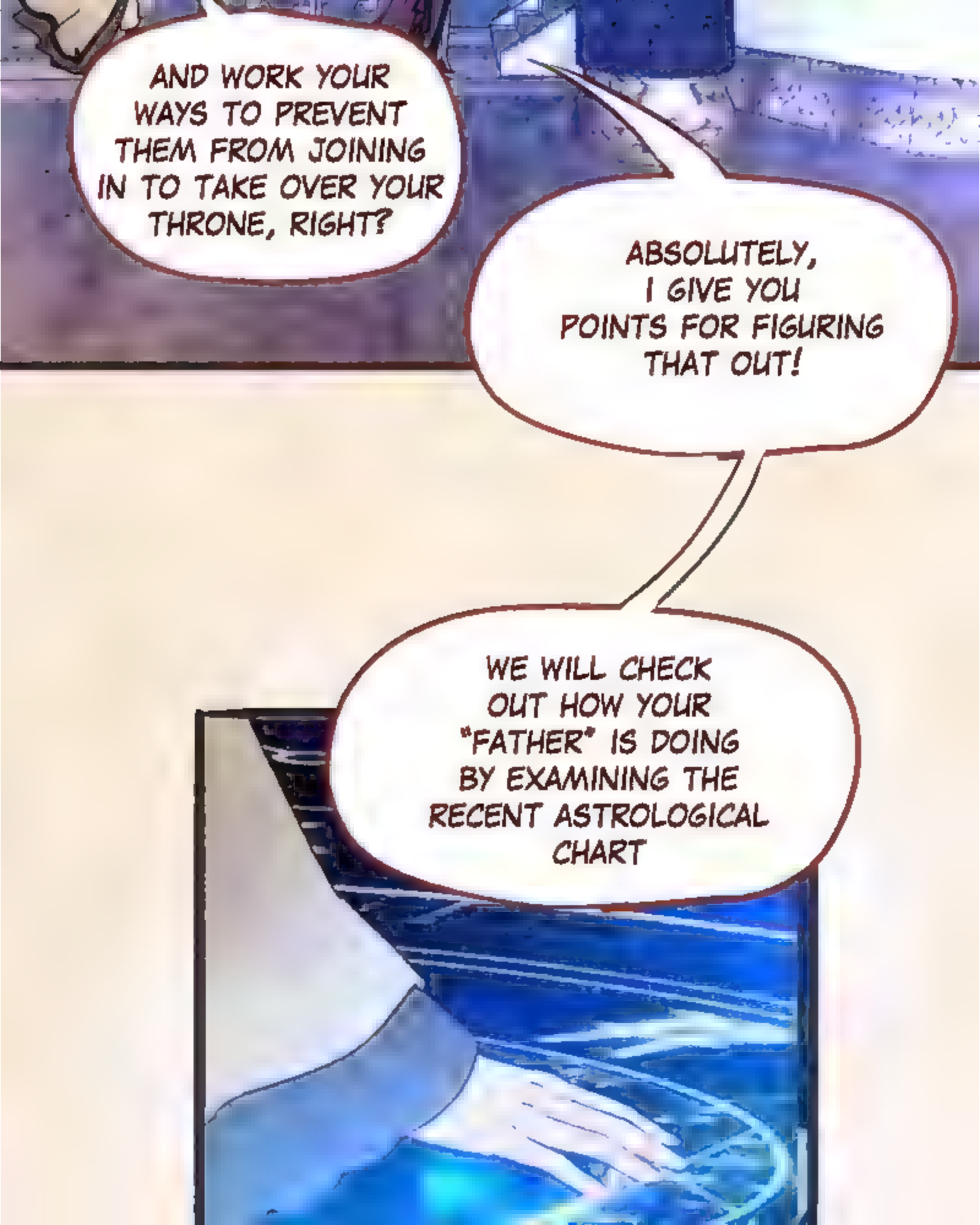
YES,
MY MAJESTY.

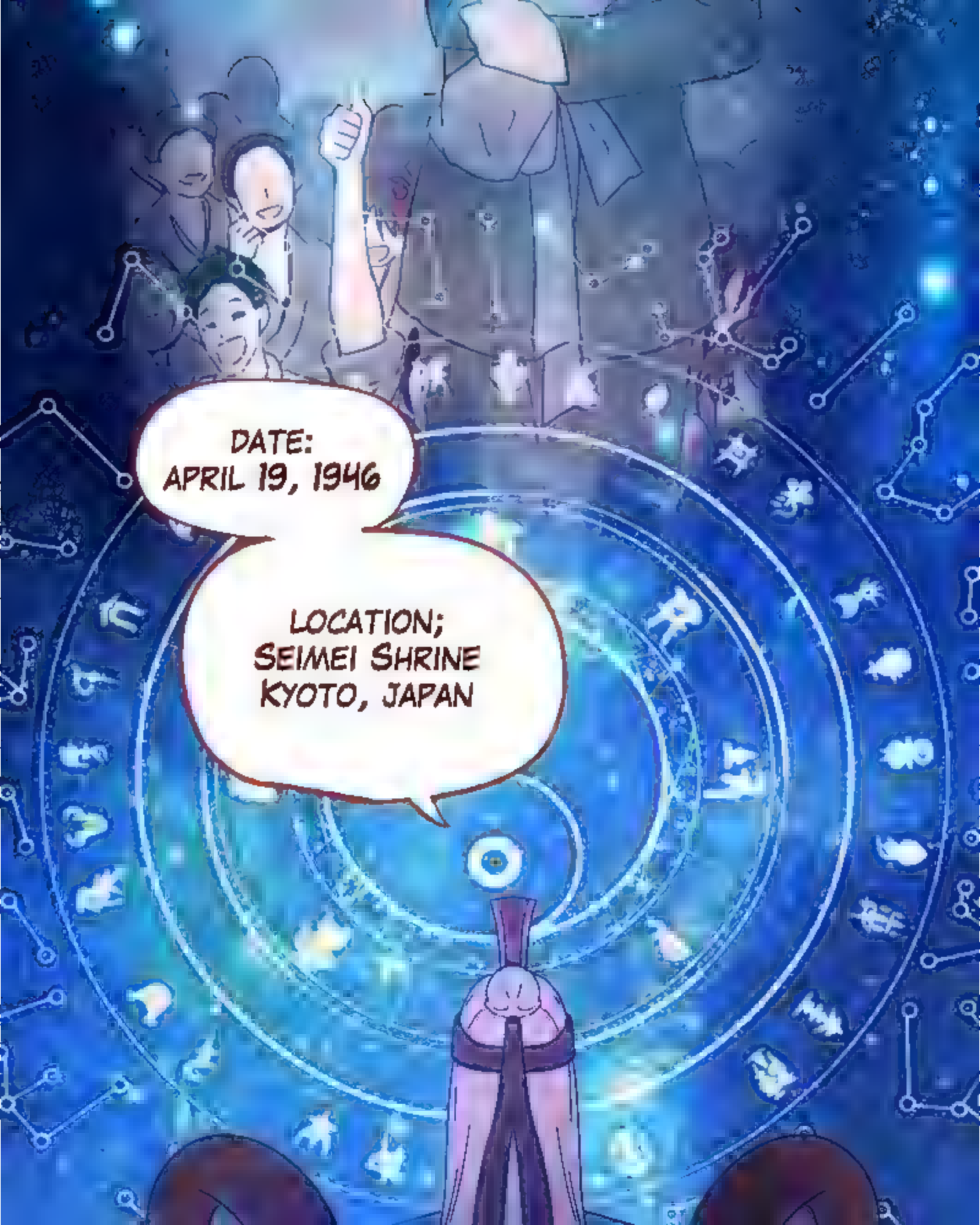







THIS IS THE OFFICE WHERE MY ASTROLOGERS WORK FOR ME,
MEN WITH SPECIAL TALENT IN ASTROLOGY ARE PERMITED TO USE MAGIC TO CALCULATE THE EVENTS HAPPENING IN THE LIVING WORLD.
YOU ARE USING THEM TO FORTELL ANY POTENTIAL HEROS MIGHT DROP INTO PHANTOM PARADISE,


AND WORK YOUR WAYS TO PREVENT THEM FROM JOINING IN TO TAKE OVER YOUR THRONE, RIGHT?
ABSOLUTELY, I GIVE YOU POINTS FOR FIGURING THAT OUT!
WE WILL CHECK OUT HOW YOUR "FATHER" IS DOING BY EXAMINING THE RECENT ASTROLOGICAL CHART

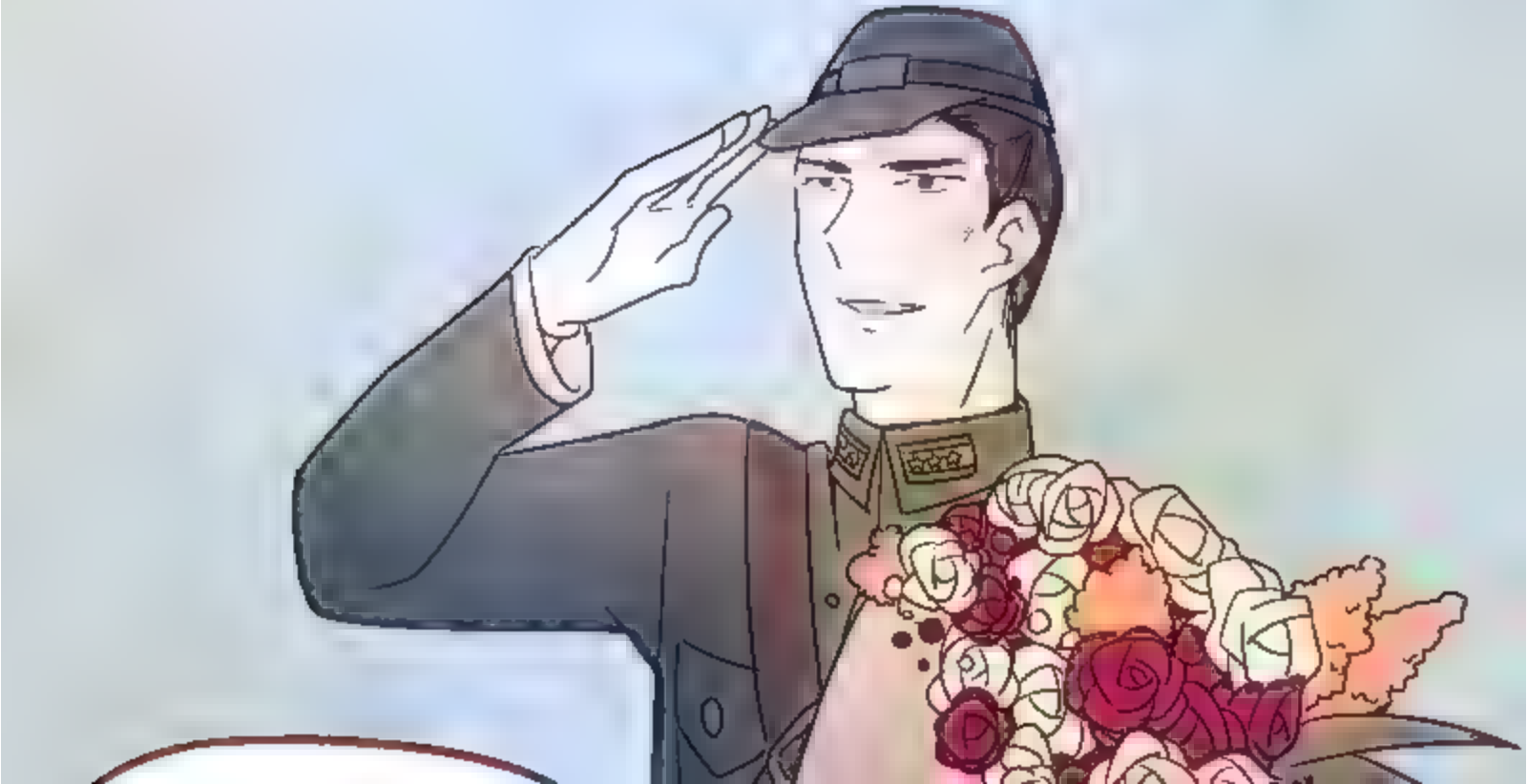

DATE:
APRIL 19, 1946
LOCATION;
SEIMEI SHRINE
KYOTO, JAPAN

T-THAT'S FATHER?!!

THIS MUST BE SOME SORT OF FAKE HOLOGRAM SPELL!?
EVENT:
COMMANDER

HIROSHI KYUSAKI'S PROMOTION, AS WELL AS...

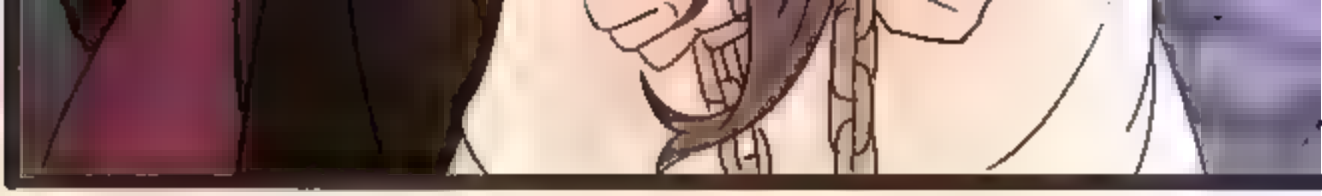
"WORLD WAR II JAPANESE HERO CELEBRATION"



Today, Commander Ryusaki has been promoted to the title of "Taikun"--
As well as certified a Japanese World War II hero for his great achievements and contributions.

STOP THIS NONSENSE AND YOUR STUPID ASTROLOGY MAGIC CRAP!
FATHER DIED LONG BEFORE THIS, HE COMMITTED SUICIDE BECAUSE OF ME--

DID HE?
I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SO HAPPY AND LIVELY AFTER A LONG AGO SUICIDE.

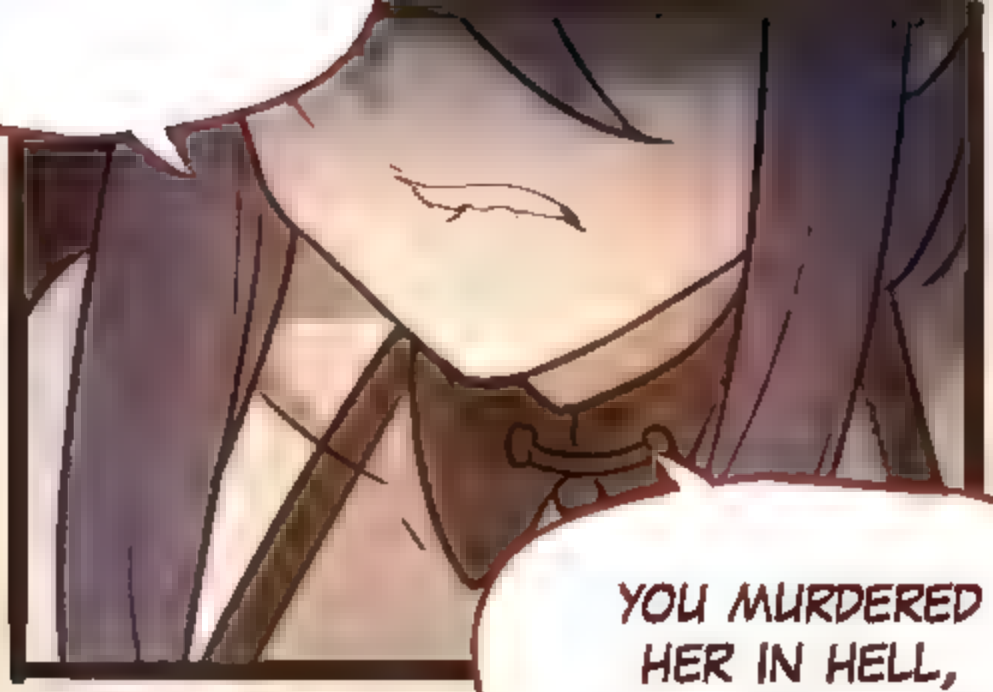


YOU ARE SUCH A DEVOTED SON TO YOUR FATHER, IT'S SO TOUCHING!

OH WAIT,

SHOULD WE EVEN BE CALLING HIM YOUR "FATHER" AT THIS POINT?

LET'S FIND OUT!
REVEAL THE TRUTH ABOUT MY MOTHER FIRST, I DARE YOU!

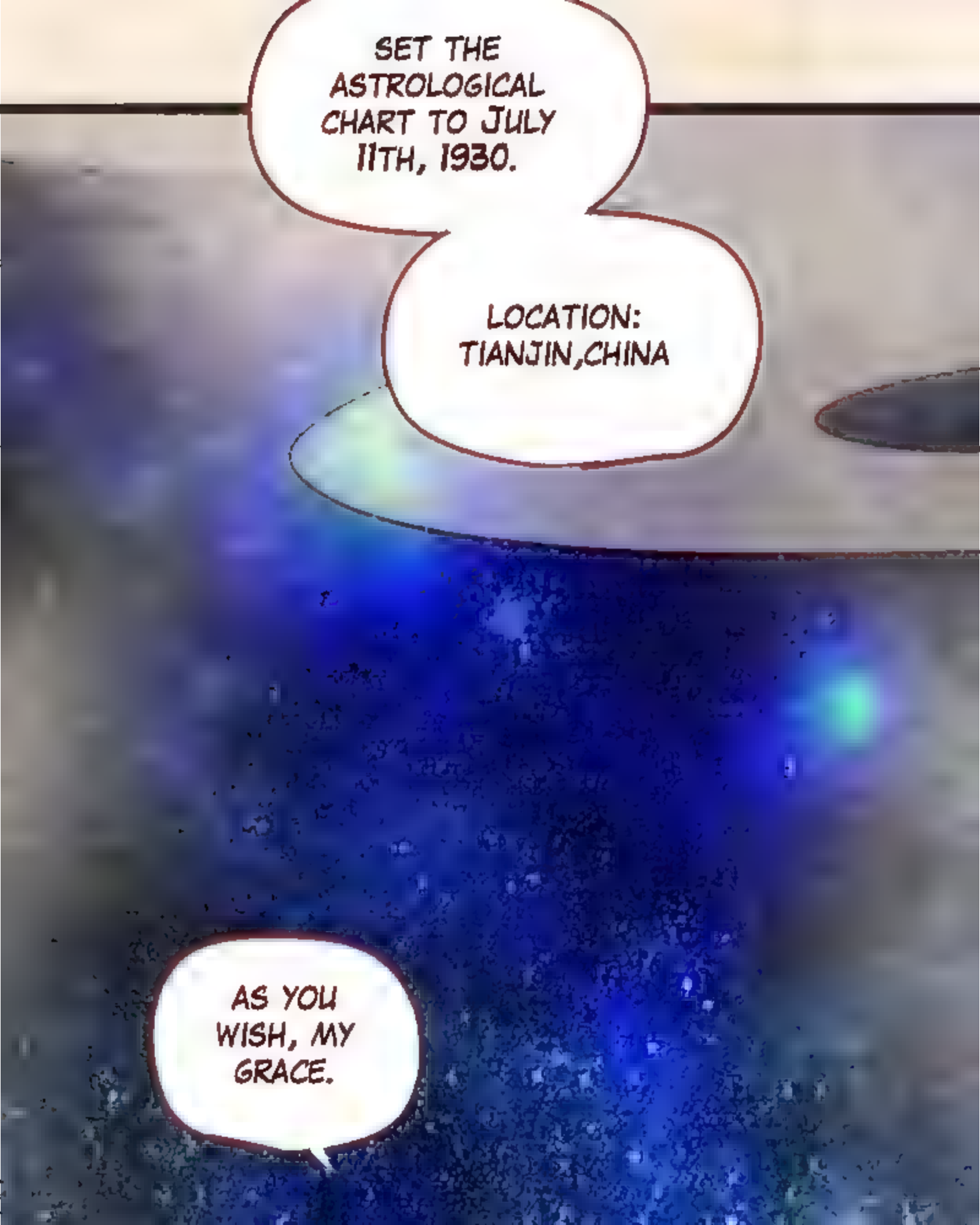


YOU MURDERED HER IN HELL, DIDN'T YOU?!

DO YOU THINK I'LL JUST FORGIVE YOU FOR THAT?!

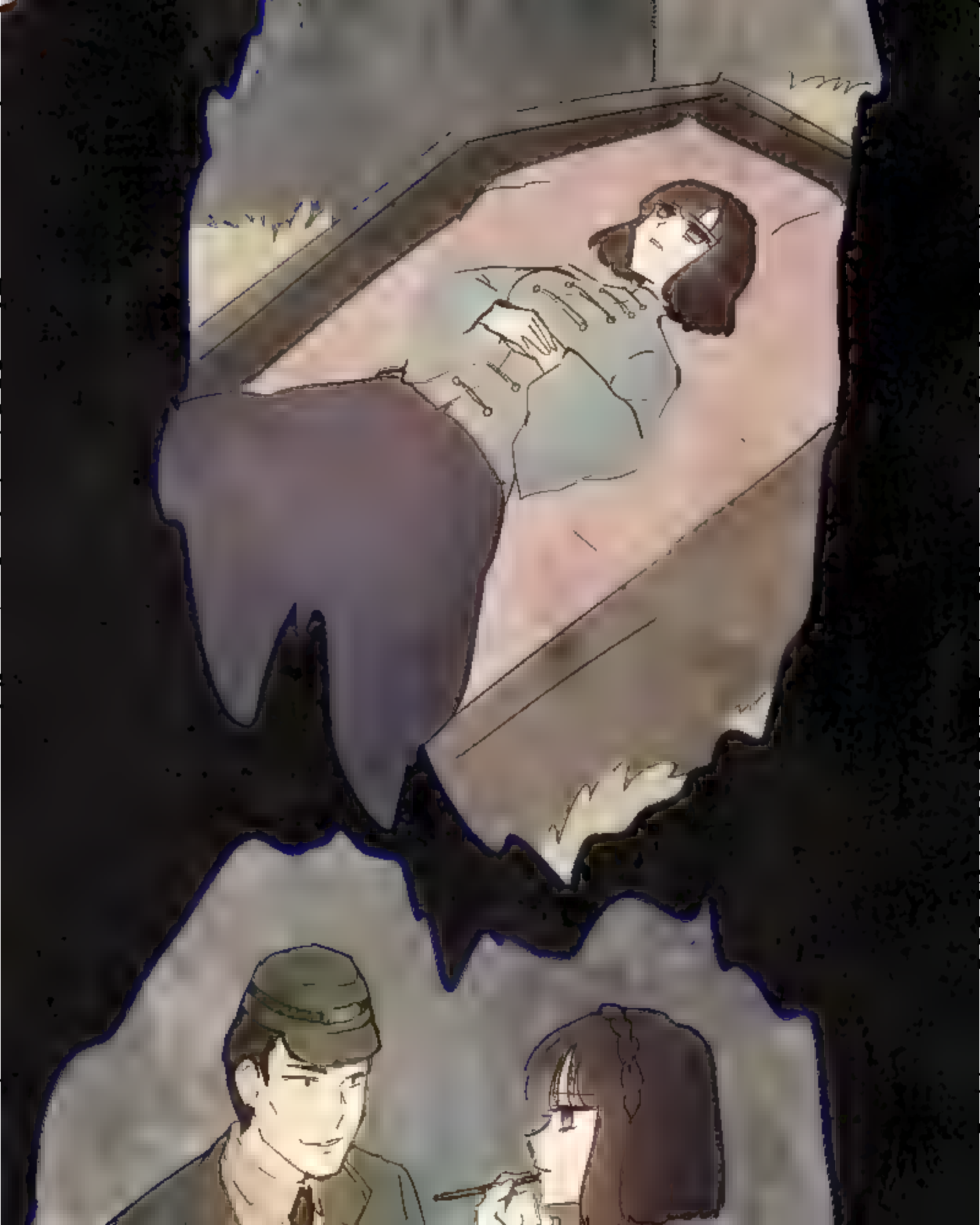
FINE, WE'LL EAT THE ICING ON THE

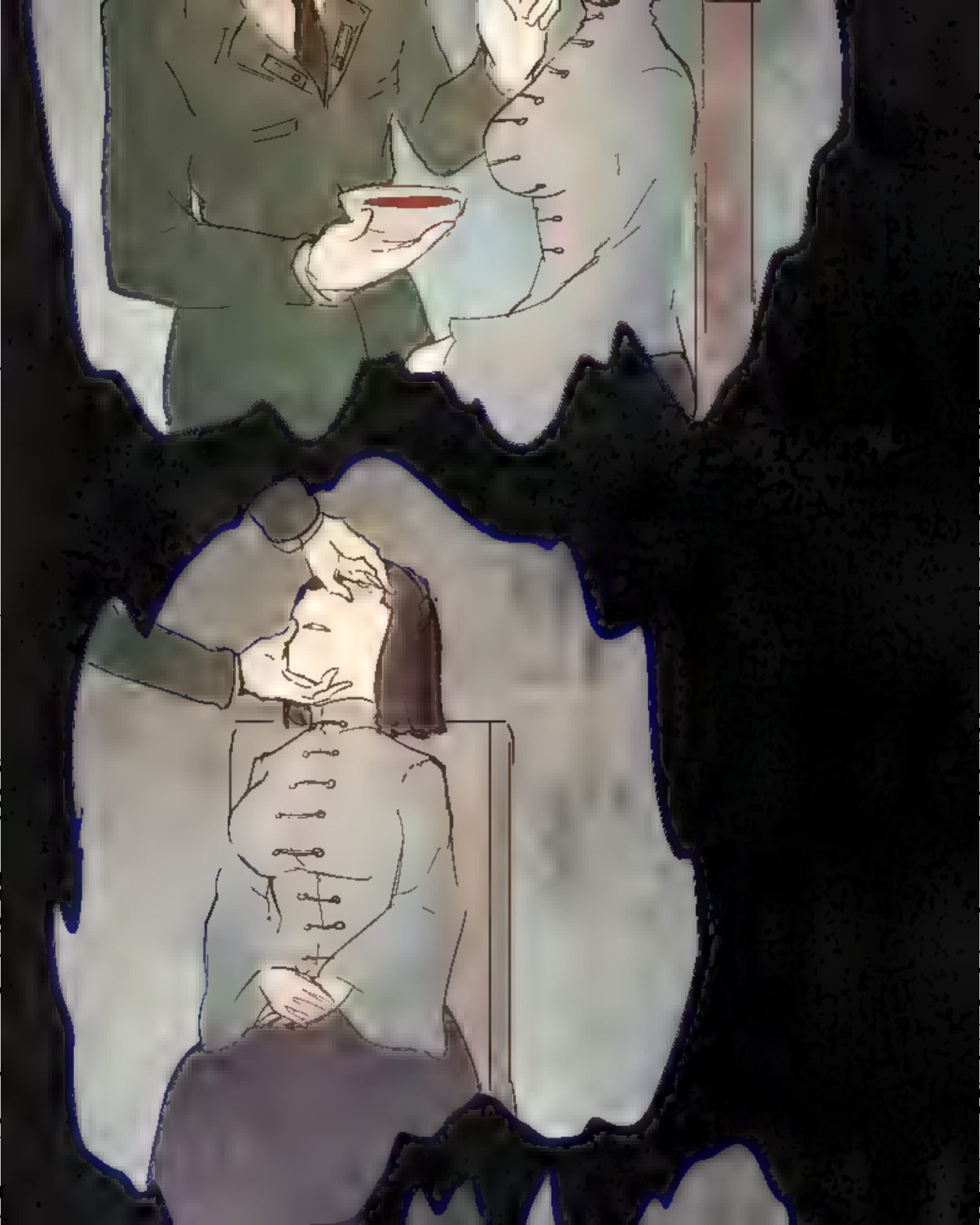
CAKE FIRST.
BUCKLE UP FOR THIS UP COMING FAMILY "SWEETNESS"!


SET THE ASTROLOGICAL CHART TO JULY 11TH, 1930.
LOCATION: TIANJIN,CHINA
AS YOU WISH, MY GRACE.

LET'S START WITH HOW THOSE BEAUTIFUL FAMILY PHOTOS YOUR FATHER GAVE YOU WERE TAKEN.

JULY 11TH 1930,
IT'S THE DAY AFTER
MY BIRTHDAY!





F-FATHER TOOK
OUR FAMILY PICTURES
WITH...

WITH...
...MOTHER'S CORPSE?!!

VOMMM----

OH NO
YOU DON'T!
I FORBID
MY CONCUBINES
FROM VOMMITTING
IN MY IMPERIAL
HAREM.

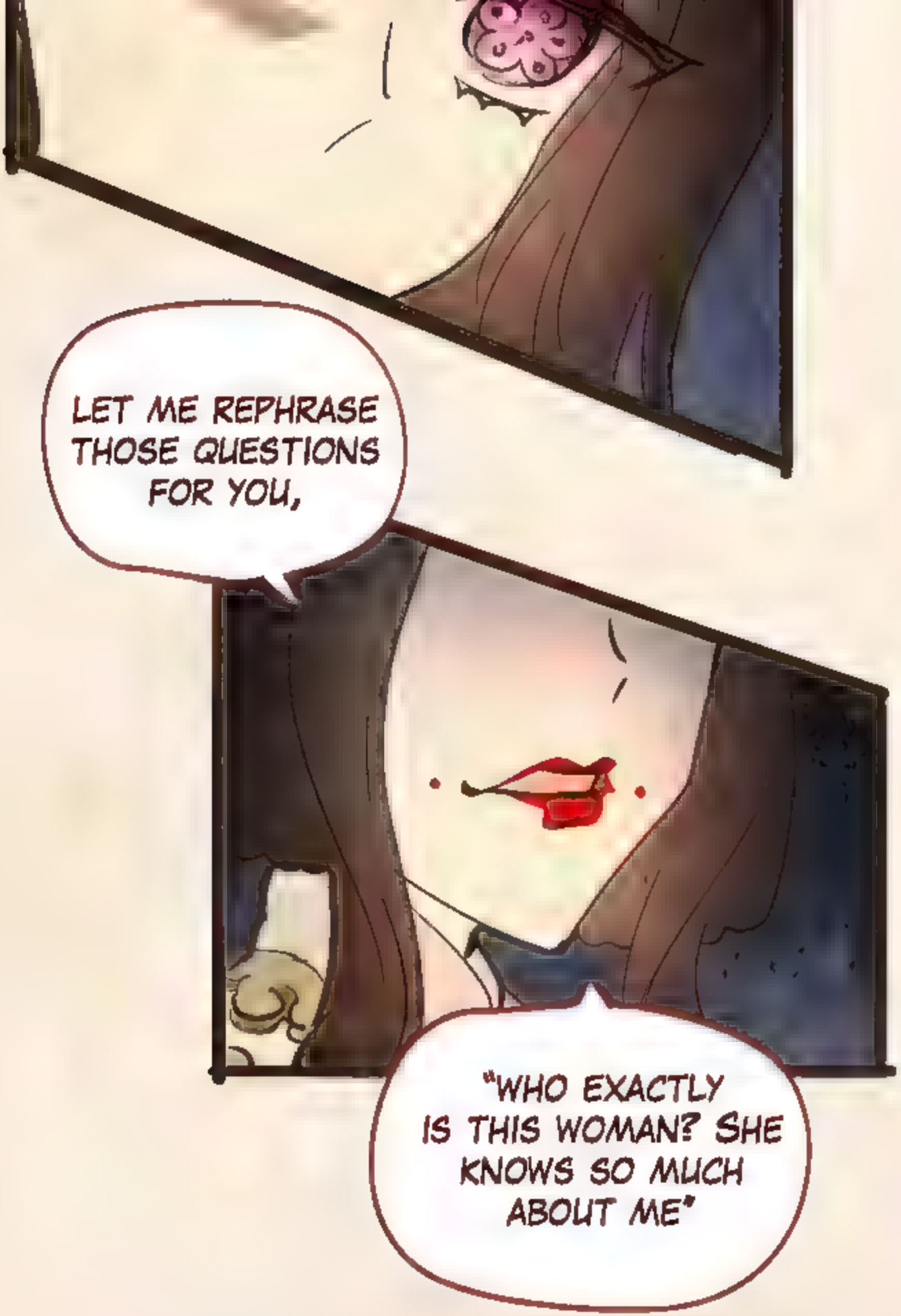
COUGH
COUGH

PUKING IS NOT A SUITABLE BEHAVIOUR FOR A HANDSOME MAN.
THAT WOULD BE SO DETRIMENTAL TO YOUR HOTNESS FACTOR.

ENOUGH!!
PLEASE, JUST EXPLAIN EVERYTHING ALREADY--
WHO ARE YOU EXACTLY?

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!!

I TOLD YOU TO BUCKLE UP TIGHT, LITTLE BOY.


LET ME REPHRASE THOSE QUESTIONS FOR YOU,
"WHO EXACTLY IS THIS WOMAN? SHE KNOWS SO MUCH ABOUT ME"

"EVEN THOUGH EVERYTHING MAKES SO MUCH SENSE NOW,"
"I SHOULDN'T BELIEVE HER WORDS,"

"BUT WHAT IF WHAT SHE IS SHOWING ME IS THE TRUTH?"
"WHAT IF SHE REVEALED MY SCARS?"

"THEN WHAT DOES MY SACRIFICE FOR MY FATHER AND BETRAYAL OF LUCIUS MEAN NOW?"

"WHAT DOES LUCIUS' SACRIFICE FOR ME MEAN AT THIS POINT?"

"WHAT IF EVERYTHING WE BOTH DIED FOR..."

"WAS NOTHING BUT A GODDAMN LIE?!"

Phantom Paradise

極樂宮

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